

# The Avenue Pre-School Playgroup

The Avenue Methodist Church, Rutland Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,  
HP12 3JQ



## Inspection date

9 March 2016

## Previous inspection date

16 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children make good progress in their development. Staff encourage all children to learn and they provide a good level of challenge in their play and routine activities overall.
- Staff understand how children learn and make accurate assessments of their skills. They plan the next steps in children's development well, to build on their achievements.
- The manager uses an effective system of self-evaluation to which the staff, parents and children regularly contribute their views. Improvements in practice focus on the quality of teaching and learning, and contribute to better outcomes for children.
- Children play with imagination and curiosity. They understand how to behave well and the staff help them to become independent, as their confidence grows. Children receive the comfort and reassurance they need to feel safe and secure.
- Staff provide a wide range of exciting and stimulating activities and opportunities to help children learn.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently promote the early reading and writing skills of children who prefer to play outdoors, to help strengthen this area of their learning.
- Occasionally, staff do not fully encourage children to express themselves and respond to music, sounds and rhythm in their play, to fully promote their creative skills.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

### To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- strengthen opportunities for children who choose to play outdoors to develop their early reading and writing skills during their everyday activities
- develop further opportunities for children to experiment with music and sounds, to promote their creativity and ability to express themselves further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with children, staff, managers and parents at the inspection.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of staff practice during a planned activity.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with children throughout their daily play routines.
- The inspector viewed a wide range of documentation, including policies and procedures and children's records.

### Inspector

Victoria Frost

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers take effective measures to promote the professional development of each staff member, to help them develop their teaching skills. For example, staff have used training to introduce more resources to promote the needs of children who are learning English as an additional language. Managers precisely target areas where staff can improve, to promote effective experiences for children. Staff closely monitor children's progress and intervene quickly to help close any gaps in children's learning; including in their communication and language development. Additional funding is used to strengthen the quality of teaching and improve children's outcomes. Safeguarding is effective. All staff understand how to respond to concerns for children's safety and how to follow local child protection procedures.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work closely with parents from the start, to understand and build on what children already know and can do. They use effective teaching techniques to make sure that children develop skills in all areas of learning. Staff actively share their training, knowledge and skills to help parents develop their own techniques to support learning at home. For example, staff and parents participated in joint training sessions to develop their interactions with children and promote their learning. Staff make sure that their plans to promote learning are appropriate and reflect children's needs. Children develop the core skills they need to be able to move on to the next stages of their learning.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn good health and hygiene routines, and why it is important to stay healthy and safe. They take responsibility for tasks for themselves, such as hand washing and serving their own food at snack times. Staff develop close bonds with children and help them to use their natural curiosity to explore. Children choose resources and activities for themselves and contribute to group decisions; for example, about which snacks to prepare for the week ahead. Children learn to listen to one another, to take turns and to develop the social and emotional skills they need to be ready for school.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those for whom the setting receives additional funding, progress well overall. The majority of children develop good communication and language skills; for example, through singing familiar songs and rhymes, and using their home languages in play. Children select and use resources independently and ask for help when they need it. Children learn to use tools for particular purposes, such as when they dig and sow seeds in the garden. Children develop technological skills; for instance, as they use interactive toys, push buttons and make things work.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY333723
<b>Local authority</b>	Buckinghamshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1013049
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	24
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	37
<b>Name of provider</b>	The Avenue Pre-School Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	16 April 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	01494 563663

The Avenue Pre-School registered in 2006. It operates from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. The pre-school operates during school term times. The provider employs seven staff, five of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education to children aged two, three and four years, as well as early years pupil premium funding.

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