

Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School



St. Stephens Church Hall, Albert Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 6EH

Inspection date	14 April 2016
Previous inspection date	26 June 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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's communication and language development are good. Staff encourage all children, including children with special educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language, to express themselves fully through activities that promote their speech and language skills.
- Children show a positive approach to learning and behaviour throughout the setting. Staff are excellent role models and interact well with children, which results in a calm and friendly atmosphere.
- There are warm and caring relationships between children and all staff. Children demonstrate that they are well settled and secure.
- Staff establish very positive relationships with parents. An effective two-way flow of communication supports children's welfare, learning and development.
- Staff provide a good variety of interesting and stimulating activities, indoors and outside that enable children's good progress in all areas of learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The otherwise good monitoring of children's progress does not fully take account of the different groups attending the setting and this limits the potential to target interventions even more effectively.
- At times, less experienced staff do not have high enough expectations of what each child can achieve, in particular the most able children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already good monitoring of children's assessment by tracking the progress of different groups more precisely, to ensure that interventions can be targeted even more effectively
- support less experienced staff in being more responsive to the needs of the most able children, in order to accelerate their progress and achievement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and her committed staff team show a strong focus and passionate drive to provide high-quality care and education for children. Self-evaluation processes contribute actively to sustaining the good provision. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a thorough knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures, and are aware of their responsibilities in this respect. Staff are supported to attend relevant courses and gain additional qualifications to further promote effective outcomes for children. The manager monitors educational programmes effectively for individual children. However, she is only just starting to fully consider the varying learning styles and progress made by different groups of children, and how this may impact on planning and staff interventions. The pre-school forms successful links with local schools which ensure continuity in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children flourish in this warm and welcoming pre-school. They demonstrate a positive approach to learning, supported by the cheerful interactions of the staff team caring for them. Children eagerly explore and play, displaying emerging levels of independence and self-confidence. Staff observe children regularly and use these observations effectively to plan individual next steps in their learning. Staff extend children's learning skilfully as they introduce simple mathematical concepts of shape and size. For example, during a craft activity, staff encouraged children to talk about colour, texture and size. As a result, children enhance their early mathematical and language skills. Outdoors, children clearly enjoy using a varied range of resources that supports their development across all areas of learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children share warm relationships with the approachable and friendly staff, who know them well. A firmly established key-person system is in place to support their emotional needs. Staff develop and extend children's understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise during outdoor play and are offered a range of nutritious snacks. At snack time children and staff sit together and are very sociable. Staff use this opportunity to encourage children to talk about the morning and to share their home experiences. This is one way in which children's interests are further extended as they learn to listen to each other respectfully and form opinions.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress from their starting points and are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. For example, children choose their own activities independently from the good choice available and attend successfully to their self-care needs. They build key skills for the future and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY441269
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	854104
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	58
Name of provider	Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 June 2012
Telephone number	02085055828

Noah's Ark Christian Pre-school was registered in 2012. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

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