

Little Lambs Preschool

Church of the Good Shepherd, Winklebury Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 8BU



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

5 May 2016

9 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- The manager and committee have worked effectively to develop the provision since the last inspection. They have reviewed their practice and set clear targets for improvement. As a result the staff team are motivated and driven to improve achievement for all children.
- Staff accurately assess children's needs and take into account their interests. They use this knowledge to plan interesting experiences for children, which motivate them to learn.
- Children become independent in their personal hygiene, dressing and care of their belongings. They make choices about their learning. They learn to listen, follow instructions and confidently express themselves. As a result children are well prepared for school.
- Staff provide a warm and nurturing environment for children. Children are happy and have strong relationships with the staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The programme for mathematical development is not yet fully embedded. Some staff miss opportunities to support children to develop their mathematical vocabulary when they are taking part in activities.
- Systems to monitor teaching are not yet sufficiently embedded to ensure practice is consistently of a high quality.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to increase their understanding of mathematical vocabulary
- embed the system for monitoring the quality of teaching, so that practice is consistently of a high standard.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the day.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken with on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with representatives of the committee and the manager.
- The inspector sampled children's records, planning documentation, information about the pre-school's self-evaluation, evidence of staff suitability and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Teresa Newman

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff now benefit from regular supervision and leaders have started to monitor practice effectively. This identifies training needs to extend staff's practice and knowledge. Recent training has seen staff implement new ideas gained to extend boys' writing skills. As a result boys' early writing skills have improved. Safeguarding is effective. Staff keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date and understand their responsibility to protect children. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that all adults, including those on the committee, are suitable to work with children. There are good systems in place to monitor the progress that children make. This enables the manager and staff to take prompt action to reduce any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff follow children's lead during play and model language effectively. This supports younger children to extend their language skills. Children are motivated to learn. They particularly enjoy developing their creative and role play skills. In the role play area children pack their bags for a trip to the forest; their adventures take them to the outside area where they explore the woodland. Staff build on children's interests and give them time to explore and develop them. Staff work effectively with parents. They share details of their children's progress and how they can support their learning further at home. Staff encourage children to recognise numbers during routine activities, developing their mathematical skills. However, at times they do not fully support children to develop their mathematical vocabulary.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff know children well and meet their individual needs. They praise and encourage children. As a result children are confident and show good self-esteem. When children do not speak English, staff work well with parents to learn key words in their home language. This helps children settle quickly and make the best of learning opportunities. Children know the rules of the pre-school. Recent training on behaviour management has helped to ensure that children benefit from a consistent approach. As a result, children understand the staff's expectations and so behave well. The routine allows time for children to access resources freely and make decisions about what they play with. Children learn how to manage risks. For example, staff show children how to safely cut fruit and vegetables for snack time. Children are learning to take turns. They patiently wait at snack time to pour their own drinks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children become immersed in play and learning. They make dinosaur soup with paint, adding sand, flowers and stones. They notice the changes to the colour and texture and enjoy exploring how this feels. Children demonstrate a curiosity for nature. They find binoculars and look for birds in the trees. Children excitedly build a house for a dinosaur using large wooden bricks, tyres and milk crates. They work together and negotiate the best way to build the house. This helps them understand that others have different views to them as well and promotes their physical development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110498
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1039407
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Little Lambs Preschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2015
Telephone number	07577 888123

Little Lambs Pre-School opened in 2000. It operates from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Winklebury, Basingstoke. The pre-school has access to two rooms and a large fully enclosed outdoor area. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 21 children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. Children attend a variety of sessions a week. The pre-school supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions run from 9.15am to 2.45pm Monday to Thursday, and from 9.15 to 1pm on a Friday. There are three different starting times (9.15, 10.30 or 12 noon) and three different finishing times (11.45, 1pm or 2.45). Children who stay over the lunch period bring a packed lunch. There are six members of staff who work with the children. Five staff hold early years qualifications, two at level 4 and three at level 3.

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