

Billericay Methodist Pre-school



Western Road, BILLERICAY, Essex, CM12 9DT

Inspection date

17 May 2016

Previous inspection date

18 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

- Since the last inspection, the manager and committee have made significant improvements and implemented considerable changes. These have improved the procedures for safeguarding children.
- Staff know all the children well. They complete regular observations and assessments to identify what children can do and their next steps for learning. Staff use the information to effectively plan learning experiences that promote children's development.
- The whole staff team establishes clear routines in a developmentally appropriate, very well-organised learning environment. Staff support the children to be kind and considerate, while consistently and gently reinforcing their high expectations. Children learn to behave very well.
- Children who require additional help are very well supported. Staff liaise effectively with other professionals and children benefit greatly from the inclusive educational programme.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are less effective at enhancing children's learning in the outdoor learning environment. This is because they do not make the best use of the resources to support children's learning.
- Occasionally, explanations and ideas staff give to parents as to how they can best support their child's learning at home are not consistently shared.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore ways to further enhance the experiences of those children who prefer to learn outside
- build on the information shared with parents to offer them the best help to further support their children's learning in the home environment.

Inspection activities

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

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff understand their responsibility to keep children safe and know what to do if they have concerns about a child's development or welfare. They undertake daily risk assessments, minimise hazards and teach children to keep themselves free from harm. For example, staff talk to children about why they need to wear sun hats when it is warm and sunny outside. This helps them to assess different risks and begin to take responsibility for their own health and well-being. There are robust systems in place for recruitment, induction and continued professional development. Staff feel very supported. The manager supports staff well to understand their roles. The manager is actively involved, working alongside staff. She promotes professional development opportunities, in particular, through regular supervision and training. This helps to improve the quality of care and learning children receive. Parents speak very highly of the pre-school. Staff invite parents into the setting to discuss their children's progress. This helps to promote good partnerships with parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide an interesting and exciting environment for children to learn in. Thorough assessments are carried out when children first start and these help staff to understand and plan based on their starting points. Staff provide a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning, enabling children to make choices about what they wish to do. They help children develop their early mathematical skills as they encourage them to count and recognise written numbers as they play. Staff constantly talk to the children, commenting on what they are doing and asking questions to encourage their thinking and exploration. Children are given good opportunities to develop their literacy skills. Older children confidently recognise, sound out and confidently write the letters of their name. Children develop their creative skills well. For example, they create their own 'cakes' from mud and water and have great fun with sequins and glue while decorating large pasta shells.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming and well-planned environment to interest children in their play. Resources are carefully matched to suit the age range of children attending. Children are very happy and settled, which helps them to form positive relationships with staff and helps support their emotional well-being. Children are supported to share and take turns. Children respond positively to staff interaction and demonstrate good sharing and listening skills. Staff are good role models and actively promote children's physical well-being both indoors and outside. All care routines are agreed with parents and a positive approach to healthy practices is maintained.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make consistently good progress in their learning and development. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for their eventual move on to school. Children are becoming confident and active individuals who enjoy their learning. They are happy, settled children who are learning to respect each other.

Setting details

Unique reference number	650031
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1033563
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	26
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Billericay Methodist Pre-School Management Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP520395
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2015
Telephone number	01277 624 533

Billericay Methodist Pre-school opened in 1960. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five 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.

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