

West Horndon Under Fives Preschool



West Horndon Village Hall, Thorndon Avenue, West Horndon, BRENTWOOD, Essex, CM13 3TX

Inspection date

19 May 2016

Previous inspection date

19 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff supervision is not sharply focused on what aspects of teaching can be improved by staff to further raise the quality of teaching.
- Staff do not use opportunities to ask questions that test out and challenge children's thinking, to further enhance their learning.
- Staff do not make the best use of resources and children's activities to challenge and promote their independence and extend their learning.
- The manager is not using self-evaluation effectively to identify key priorities in order to drive forward improvements more swiftly.

It has the following strengths

- The manager, committee and staff team have made suitable improvements since the last inspection. With support from their local authority advisors, the manager and staff have satisfactorily implemented actions to bring about some improvements.
- Secure arrangements are in place to safeguard children. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in identifying abuse and the reporting procedures they must follow.
- Parents speak positively about the pre-school. They feel involved and included in their children's learning and they comment on how their children are prepared for school.
- The staff team makes accurate observations and assessments of children's learning. This helps them to check on children's progress and identify any areas where they may need more support.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

Due Date

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| ■ improve staffs professional development and supervision arrangements to raise the quality of teaching across the pre-school. | 15/07/2016 |
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- develop the provision of resources in order to support children's interests, independence and provide more challenge
- help staff to test out and extend children's learning, in order to secure more rapid progress
- strengthen arrangements for evaluating the pre-school provision, in order to identify and prioritise further areas for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and learning in the indoor and outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked the evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability of the committee.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The manager and committee have a sound understanding of their responsibilities. The pre-school has good systems to check that staff are suitable to work with children. The manager and staff team have an appropriate understanding in relation to safeguarding children. Therefore, the arrangements for safeguarding are effective. However, they do not yet place the same level of emphasis on ensuring the learning and development requirements are met in full. As a consequence, the quality of teaching is not consistently strong and requires improvement so that all children make good progress. The manager is involved in the care of children and is able to observe and mentor staff. However, she does not use this opportunity to best effect to tailor staff supervision to identifying aspects of teaching that require further improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff do not use their knowledge and skills consistently to extend learning opportunities for children. Activities do not always provide sufficient challenge and some learning opportunities are missed. For example, children engage in a floating and sinking activity, using boats they have made. They are not sufficiently stimulated to think about why some of the boats floated and some sank. Staff do not always recognise when to ask additional questions to help children develop their thinking and language skills. Staff introduce some mathematical concepts, such as encouraging children to count and to name numbers when measuring using a ruler.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children are happy and settled. Staff provide a welcoming environment. Children are greeted warmly as they enter the pre-school. However, the lack of resources at some activities means that children do not always have enough opportunities to extend their learning and develop their independence to self-select activities of their choice. Children are taught to share and take turns during their play. Staff help children to become independent in managing their personal needs. Care practices are sound and children display growing levels of confidence and emotional well-being. Children begin to learn about the rules in place for their safety and how to keep themselves safe. They have daily opportunities for exercise and fresh air, which help to promote their health and physical development. The manager has established sound relationships with the local primary school, helping to promote continuity so that children are suitably prepared for the next stage in their learning.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are beginning to develop key skills in language, literacy and mathematics. Older children learn about the letters in their name and how to write them. As a result, children are learning some of the key skills they will need when they move on to school. Children generally work within the expected range of development for their ages. However, variances in teaching mean that children do not make the best possible progress in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	204131
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1033649
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 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	20
Name of registered person	West Horndon Under Fives Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519133
Date of previous inspection	19 November 2015
Telephone number	07787 853727

West Horndon Under Fives Preschool was registered in 1994. The setting employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2. The setting opens on Monday and Tuesday from 9am until 12pm and Wednesday and Thursday from 9am until 3pm, term time only. The setting provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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