

Mundeford Pre-School

Methodist Church Hall, Mundeford Lane, Mundeford, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 3HL



Inspection date

23 February 2017

Previous inspection date

13 May 2014

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

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The quality of teaching varies between the staff. Some staff regularly miss chances to challenge children through the activities to extend their learning and development well.
- Staff do not make the most of 'group time' and group activities to fully support children's individual needs and learning priorities.
- The provider's self-evaluation is not strong enough to help pinpoint areas where improvement is needed to provide good quality care for children.

It has the following strengths

- Children are settled and secure. They behave well and have positive relationships with each other and adults, which supports their emotional well-being effectively.
- The staff team creates a welcoming, inviting play environment each day with a varied range of activities. Children have access to a wide range of resources to support their play.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff provide regular information about their children's care, learning and development. For example, parents receive a 'take-home challenge' with activities they can follow on at home with their children.
- Children enjoy regular opportunities to play outdoors and be active.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

Due Date

- increase the support for staff to develop their skills and understanding of how to extend children's learning to raise teaching to a consistently good level

04/05/2017

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

- review the organisation of large group activities to make sure these are well suited to all children's needs
- make better use of ongoing self-evaluation to more accurately identify areas that require improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities, indoors and outdoors, and interaction between the staff and the children, and looked at the play equipment and resources.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider to discuss the impact of teaching after viewing activities.
- The inspector spoke with the provider, staff and some parents. She also talked with the children at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's developmental records, planning and staff suitability records.
- The inspector looked at, and discussed, systems used to evaluate the pre-school.

Inspector

Dinah Round

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The provider's evaluation of the quality of the provision is not strong enough to identify inconsistencies in the quality of teaching. She organises some staff meetings, supervisions and appraisals to help support staff development. The provider is aware that some staff require guidance to help them to develop their role further. However, she does not monitor staff practice well enough, which leads to inconsistencies in the support children receive for their learning. Safeguarding is effective. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures are followed to check staff suitability. Staff understand their role to protect children and supervise them well. The provider has established close links with the school and the children take part in school events, such as joint reading sessions.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff observe children as they play to assess their achievements. They use the information to plan activities that children enjoy but do not always offer sufficient challenge to help them make consistently good progress. Some children are happy to follow staff around, and staff do not actively engage them in purposeful play activities. Children develop their physical skills well. For example, they show care and control as they ride their bikes and practise their balancing skills on the climbing frame outdoors. Children enjoy feeling the texture of the sand and exploring its properties. For example, they hide different pebbles with pictures of shapes to learn about size and shape.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children build trusting relationships with the staff. The staff interact in a friendly and caring manner, supporting children's care needs effectively. Overall, the children move around the play space with confidence. They have access to an inviting book area and generally enjoy listening to stories. However, the group story time is not organised well to fully engage children and fully extend their learning. Children play together cooperatively. For example, they listen to others as they negotiate what they need to build a tower with the soft play resources. Staff help children gain an understanding of people in the wider world through a range of resources and specific activities.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children enjoy their time at the pre-school but do not make the best possible progress in their learning. Staff do not consistently challenge children well enough to develop their thinking and early language skills, to fully prepare them for the next stage in their learning. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. They choose from healthy options at snack time and enjoy exercise daily. Children show developing independence in their self-care skills. For example, they are encouraged to peel their own fruit and pour their drinks at snack time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	144296
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1068533
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Elaine Joan Salter
Registered person unique reference number	RP513074
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2014
Telephone number	07443433359

Mudeford Pre-School registered in 1999 under the current ownership. It operates from a community hall in Mudeford, near Christchurch, Dorset. The pre-school operates from 8.45am to 11.45am from Monday to Friday and offers afternoon sessions from 11.45am to 2.45pm on Tuesday and Thursday, during term time only. There is a breakfast club from 8.15am every morning. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. There are five members of staff, including the owner/manager, who work with the children. The owner has an early years degree and three of the staff members hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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