

Methodist Church Playgroup

Church Hall, Camps Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8HF



Inspection date	9 June 2017
Previous inspection date	2 June 2015

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

- The manager and staff work closely with other professionals. They seek funding for additional resources or to support further training. Staff are encouraged to update their knowledge and skills. They share and receive information at staff meetings to keep their good understanding of child development current and their team approach consistent.
- Children enjoy a wide range of activities, including opportunities to learn about other cultures and customs. They increase their general knowledge as they learn about the wider world and enjoy their own graduation celebrations.
- Effective relationships have been established with staff at local primary schools. This helps to prepare children for their eventual move, as they meet their new teacher and have opportunities to ask questions.
- Reflective practice takes account of the views of staff, children and parents. This thoughtful approach helps the manager and committee to continue developing the service offered, in order to meet the childcare needs of local families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Parents are not consistently encouraged to share information about their children's development at home.
- The process to track key-person assessments for learning is not always precise enough to help the most able children make rapid progress at all times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the good communication with parents in order to explore further ways to encourage them to share information about their children's learning at home
- refine the arrangements for tracking children's progress so that planning for their next steps is even more precise, in order to increase the potential for the most able children to make rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity and discussed this with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector discussed with the manager how they reflect on practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussions during the inspection process and reading emails.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management has a strong understanding of safeguarding matters. They are fully aware of the signs and symptoms that may be a cause for concern and the procedures to follow to safeguard children. The procedures for safeguarding are effective. Staff carry out thorough risk assessments to minimise hazards and help protect children. Good systems are in place to identify where children are falling behind in their development. Action is taken quickly to minimise or put support strategies in place to help all children prepare for future learning. The manager and staff have successfully addressed the recommendations set at the last inspection. For example, they have increased opportunities for children to explore natural resources and to extend their independence through everyday tasks, such as helping to serve snack.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities which focus on their interests. For example, children choose a range of musical instruments and form a band. Older children help to organise a spontaneous talent contest, singing away while younger children excitedly provide alternative background music. Children demonstrate good levels of concentration and persevere with tasks. For example, they take time to sow seeds, carefully prepare the pots with compost and use their fingers to drill a channel ready to pop the seeds in. Once this is complete, the children engage busily in watering and labelling their plants before putting them in a sunny spot to grow. Children are creative and enthusiastic in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff plan and provide healthy snacks, chatting about these with the children and how running and climbing will help them to keep fit. This aids children to learn the importance of making good choices about what they eat and how they exercise. Staff are good role models for children, who behave well. For example, children listen and respond to staff and use good manners. Staff encourage children's independence, such as washing their hands, managing their clothing and clearing away their cups and plates after snack.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are keen to explore and investigate and are able to make informed choices about their play. They know where additional resources are stored to extend their games. For example, while creating three-dimensional towers from wooden blocks, children decide to add cars, which they confidently select from child-height storage. Children make good progress in their learning and development. They develop the skills they need for their future learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251572
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1090291
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	24
Number of children on roll	16
Name of registered person	Methodist Church Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP523384
Date of previous inspection	2 June 2015
Telephone number	07585540373

Methodist Church Playgroup registered in 1994. The playgroup committee employs three members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until midday. There is a lunch club available on Tuesday and Wednesday from midday until 1pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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