

Findon Valley Free Church Pre School



1-11 Lime Tree Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 0DJ

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| Inspection date | 29 June 2017 |
| Previous inspection date | 12 May 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

- Staff use their good teaching skills to encourage children to explore, have their own ideas and make choices. Children learn to ask questions and look for answers. They make good progress.
- Staff develop strong partnerships with parents and other professionals, which support children's development consistently well. They exchange information about children's progress with other settings that children attend and the schools to which they will move.
- The manager uses an effective staff support programme, such as regular staff meetings. She discusses any concerns about particular children as well as individual staff performance and professional development, for continued improvements to teaching.
- Children develop close relationships with staff, who help them to settle in well. Children are happy, confident and emotionally well supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to extend children's mathematical understanding, such as for comparing and measuring length and distance.
- At times, staff do not consider ways to help children learn the importance of following every day routines, to strengthen children's skills for when they eventually start school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of opportunities to build on children's understanding of comparing and measuring as part of their mathematical development
- review the organisation of some daily routines, in particular to help children to learn further skills to better support their preparation for school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff interactions with children inside and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents for their views about the pre-school.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including staff and children's records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jill Steer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff confidently discuss child protection procedures and know how to address any concerns about a child's welfare. The manager encourages staff to continually improve their knowledge and skills. Recent training, for instance, has helped staff better understand the different ways some boys prefer to learn and how they can encourage them to practise more mark making. The manager monitors all aspects of the pre-school, including the progress of individual and groups of children. She compiles an action plan to target weaker aspects and improve provision. For example, the manager has plans for the outside area to widen the range of experiences for children. These include improving the space for children to dig and providing artificial grass for all-weather use.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff base activities and planning very much on children's interests, which contributes greatly to what they learn. Staff use their teaching skills effectively to challenge children and extend their learning. They ask children questions to model language and channel children's thoughts, such as 'What did you use?' and 'How did you do it?' For example, when children searched the garden for bugs and frogs, staff extended their interest by suggesting they could check in a book to identify the spider they found. Staff track children's progress continuously. They quickly identify gaps in their learning and plan how to help them catch up.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children spend abundant time outdoors, which greatly contributes to their good health and develops their physical skills. They learn about the environment, such as changes to the weather and how they affect them. For example, they learn what clothes to wear, to apply sun cream and to drink more when it is hot, and that their hearts beat faster when they have been very active. Children show a mature understanding of feelings and show empathy to their friends. They manage their own behaviour well, such as by getting the sand timer to help their friend remember to share and take turns, while they patiently wait. Children are confident to explore, for example, they transport resources to use where they want, knowing what is available. Staff give occasional reminders of the rules to help children play safely and calculate risks.

Outcomes for children are good

Overall, children learn the necessary skills that prepare them well for school. For example, they spontaneously talk about letter sounds when they eat lunch, and comment how their crisps form a 'c' and an 'o' shape. They instinctively write and count during play, and distinguish reality from imaginary play. For instance, children declare, 'Don't worry, the dinosaurs won't bite me at the play park, it's just pretend.'

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 113482 |
| Local authority | West Sussex |
| Inspection number | 1089106 |
| Type of provision | Sessional provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register |
| Age range of children | 2 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 26 |
| Number of children on roll | 27 |
| Name of registered person | Findon Valley Free Church Pre School Committee |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP910484 |
| Date of previous inspection | 12 May 2015 |
| Telephone number | 07881274651 |

Findon Valley Free Church Pre School registered in 2001. It operates from a large church hall in Findon Valley, near Worthing, West Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday morning during term time from 9am to midday, and each afternoon, except for Tuesday, from midday to 3pm. There are nine members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, and the manager is qualified to degree level. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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