

The Salvation Army Noahs Ark Nursery

28 Brookfield Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5HZ



Inspection date

24 January 2018

Previous inspection date

14 February 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 has worked hard with her staff team to successfully improve the key-person system. Staff have a good knowledge of how to meet children's individual care needs. They form secure bonds with children in their key groups. Children display confidence in their learning and they happily explore the play environment.
- Staff teach children to develop an interest in rhythm. For example, babies happily enjoy experimenting as they bang on musical instruments. They respond enthusiastically to sounds they are hearing and move their legs actively to the music.
- Staff check children's understanding of what they have already learned, such as when they encourage children to discuss different cultures. Older children demonstrate strong memory skills as they talk about other countries and how people live.
- Staff work very well with external agencies involved in the care of children. They follow advice from professionals about how they can offer children a positive experience. Staff develop strong links with parents and they keep them fully informed about any support they can offer children at home. All children make good progress in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Not all staff clearly convey instructions to children so that they fully understand what they are meant to be doing at all times.
- Occasionally, staff move away from activities they are leading to complete minor housekeeping tasks. This leads to slight delay and some children struggle to maintain focus.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support all staff to share instructions with children as effectively as possible so children are always sure what adults expect of them
- strengthen the delivery of adult-led activities so they flow well and are not interrupted by unnecessary delays.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took a tour of the nursery with the manager and observed staff teaching in all areas.
- The inspector observed an adult-led activity with the manager. They discussed what they had seen and how the activity could be improved next time.
- The inspector held a leadership and management discussion with the manager. They talked about training opportunities available to staff.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents; they discussed support staff offer children and the progress children make.
- The inspector tracked a number of children of different ages, accessed learning records and talked to staff about the children's development.

Inspector

Julie Bruce

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The conscientious manager reflects on her practice and makes the most of advice available to her to drive forward improvement. For example, she seeks support from local authority advisers and implements suggested changes to raise the quality of teaching. Furthermore, staff offer children who require greater challenge chances to extend their learning. The manager and her deputy work well together, such as when they identify staff who require additional support. They offer mentoring sessions and extra supervisory meetings to enhance teaching skills. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of how to identify children at risk of harm. They report concerns quickly to protect children. The manager teaches staff about the need to maintain confidentiality. They follow strict guidelines to protect children's private information. The manager fully understands the need to notify Ofsted of incidents or important changes to her setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children to explore different textures. For example, children took part in a cooking activity. Staff encouraged them to talk about the feeling of different ingredients between their fingers. Children commented on the change of consistency as they added more water. They used descriptive words such as 'gooey' and 'sticky' to describe the mixture and develop their speech. Staff collaborate with each other to offer children a variety of enjoyable activities. They are good role models. For instance, staff demonstrated dance moves, which children thoroughly enjoyed copying. Staff accurately assess children from the time they start. They fully share details of children's next steps, such as when they hold regular discussions with parents.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The manager offers staff a range of opportunities to learn how to effectively support children's emotional development. For example, staff recently learned constructive strategies to support children's positive behaviour. They encourage children to compromise with friends and to resolve issues quickly. Children behave very well. Staff recognise when individual children require adult support, such as when babies are ready to settle down to sleep. They develop children's awareness of how they can contribute to society. For instance, they educate them about the importance of reducing food waste.

Outcomes for children are good

Children identify shapes, such as when they point out the shapes of cutters. They are interested in learning new skills. For example, older children sharpen blunt pencils prior to using them for creative projects. Children who are learning English as a second language and those in receipt of additional funding attain well. All children display good independence skills and are fully ready for the school experience.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460109
Local authority	Portsmouth
Inspection number	1085286
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Salvation Army Trustee Company (The)
Registered person unique reference number	RP903315
Date of previous inspection	14 February 2017
Telephone number	02392 824 573

The Salvation Army Noah's Ark Nursery registered in 2013 and is managed by the Salvation Army. It is situated in the Fratton area of Portsmouth. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are eight members of staff who work with the children. The manager and one member of staff have a level 6 qualification, another member of staff holds a level 4 qualification. Three members of staff hold a level 3 qualification, one is currently unqualified and working towards her level 3.

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