

Tiny Steps Pre-School

St. Martins Lane, Murdishaw, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6HZ



Inspection date	17 January 2019
Previous inspection date	5 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

- Leaders are highly committed and passionate about providing high-quality early years experiences for all children. They have an in-depth understanding of the needs of children and families within the community. Leaders have embed effective systems to inform continuous improvement within the pre-school.
- Leaders place a strong emphasis on working in partnership with the host school and other agencies working within the community. The manager and staff receive support from the headteacher to evaluate practice. This enables the pre-school to deliver good-quality childcare and improve outcomes for children.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported very well by qualified staff and external agencies. Children with SEND and children for whom the pre-school is in receipt of additional funding achieve well.
- Staffs' partnerships with parents are very good. Staff update parents with all aspects of children's care and learning. They provide activity ideas for parents to continue to support children's learning at home.
- Children show good levels of perseverance and imagination as they explore activities together. They have fun and work together during activities outdoors and relish opportunities to explore in the mud kitchen.
- Occasionally, staff do not adapt their teaching to encourage quieter children to participate fully during group activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on engaging and involving all children at group times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the senior managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.

Inspector

Alison Hobbs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff share a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare or development. Staff attend regular training to help to keep their knowledge up to date on all aspects of child protection and safeguarding issues. The manager is committed to developing the skills of the staff team through coaching and detailed training. She regularly monitors staff teaching with observations and she works directly with children and staff in the pre-school. This ongoing coaching supports staff and promotes consistently good-quality teaching. The manager regularly reviews the provision and takes on board the views and opinions of children and parents. They use robust systems to monitor children's attendance. Leaders routinely track the progress of individuals and groups of children to identify gaps in learning and plan targeted support and interventions in a timely manner.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work with parents to gather information about children's interests and what they can already do when they start at the setting. Staff use effective systems to support ongoing partnerships with parents, who report that they are well informed about their child's development. Staff maximise opportunities to promote mathematical skills. For instance, they encourage children to use numbers and counting as they play and help them to consider 'more than' and 'less than'. Children develop a keen interest in and an enjoyment of books. Children delight as they choose books to take home from the pre-school library.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive happy and eager to learn. They benefit from an effective key-person system. Staff know the children well and provide stimulating environments that help children to settle quickly into play. Children have regular fresh air and are keen to develop their physical skills. For instance, they relish opportunities to ride bikes and scoot around the beautiful outdoor space. Children are curious about new people and keen to learn. They develop a strong understanding of their wider community. For instance, they benefit from regular trips within the community and relish opportunities to explore the woodland area for planned activities. Children demonstrate that they feel happy and secure in the environment as they explore, whilst staff provide a narrative to support and extend their learning.

Outcomes for children are good

Children have a positive attitude towards learning and make good progress from their starting points. Children quickly learn good hygiene practices and they are encouraged to consider the benefits of eating healthy food. For example, children know to wash their hands in preparation for their snack and discuss favourite healthy foods at snack time. Children are developing skills required for the eventual move onto school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303486
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	10059406
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	17
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Reese, Karen
Registered person unique reference number	RP906786
Date of previous inspection	5 December 2014
Telephone number	07779528926

Tiny Steps Pre-School registered in 2000. It operates in the grounds of St Martin's Catholic Primary School in the Murdishaw district of Runcorn. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am to midday and 12.30pm to 3.30pm, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The pre-school employs six members of staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and above.

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