

Middlewich Community Pre-School

Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 9BX



Inspection date	15 January 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Not applicable	4
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider does not ensure all staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures. There is a lack of training relating to wider safeguarding concerns, such as being aware of signs that may indicate a child is at risk from extreme or radical views. This poses a risk to children's safety and welfare.
- Staff do not always ensure that a progress check for children aged between two and three years is completed. Inconsistencies can present a delay in children receiving additional support where it is needed.
- The tracking and monitoring system in use is unreliable and incomplete. Information gathered to measure the progress of children's development is not used effectively. As a result, any delays in children's progress are not supported swiftly enough to help them make the progress they need.
- The provider does not use robust planning methods to clearly identify and support children's next steps within their learning and development.
- The provider does not recognise weakness in practice when observing her staff. Consequently, the quality of teaching is not consistently strong throughout the varying ages of children.

It has the following strengths

- The provider offers children a warm and welcoming environment. Children demonstrate that they are happy and confident, with the ability to make their own choices of what resources they wish to access.
- Relationships between the staff, children and parents are strong. Parents value the individual care and personal support offered by the setting on a daily basis.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due date
ensure all staff are trained with the knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures and how to recognise and protect children from risk of harm, including wider safeguarding issues	21/02/2019
ensure progress checks are carried out for children attending the pre-school between the ages of two and three years, and share these with parents	15/04/2019
ensure all children's individual tracking is completed regularly to provide an accurate record of children's progress and inform staff, in order to help them effectively plan for children's development	01/03/2019
ensure supervisions establish training and guidance for staff to develop and improve practice and effectively raise the quality of teaching for children.	01/03/2019

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

- support staff to ensure all activities are adequately adapted to suit the development stages of all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with parents and took into account their views and opinions.
- The inspector sampled a range of relevant documentation, including policies and staff suitability checks.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the provider.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider and her staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors.

Inspector

Leanne McDowell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is ineffective. The provider fails to review and refresh safeguarding knowledge and understanding for her staff. This results in staff being unsure of the correct procedures to follow if they have concerns regarding a child's safety and welfare. That said, regular risk assessments are carried out by the provider to ensure the environment is safe. Staff adequately supervise and monitor children during their play and while eating, to minimise any risk of harm. Staff supervisions are not effective in identifying weaknesses within practice. As a result, staff do not receive accurate evaluations and guidance to develop their own practice. Professional development for staff is limited or outdated, which impacts on the quality that is being provided to the children in their care. The provider understands the importance of ensuring all her staff hold a paediatric first-aid certificate.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching is inconsistent. Activities for mixed-aged groups of children are not always appropriate for the youngest children. For example, register time is too long and not adapted enough to meet the needs of all children. This leads to them quickly losing interest, which in turn disrupts the activity. The quality of teaching for older children is stronger, with lots of opportunities for critical thinking. Staff ask appropriate questions and allow children time to think before they answer. All staff value the interests and views of the children, which are considered when planning activities. However, planning lacks clear links with children's individual next steps of development. Assessments are not always up to date or are incomplete, which provides insufficient evidence to support the tracking and monitoring system. Parents are involved with children's learning via discussions. However, the required progress checks for children aged between two and three years are not always completed and shared with parents. The setting has firm links within the local community and offers a range of learning experiences for children. For example, good relationships are formed with a local nursing home and residents recently knitted each child a toy for Christmas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Younger children are not always engaged as expectations are set too high for their development stage. This results in children sometimes being unwilling to listen to staff and disturbing other children's learning. There are plenty of opportunities for children to participate in exercise. For example, the outdoor play area presents a wide range of resources which supports varying age groups, allowing for appropriate challenge. A football coach encourages children to move in different ways during a weekly coaching session. Mealtimes are social times as all children sit together. Staff encourage the children to regularly use their manners.

Outcomes for children require improvement

The majority of children are not making as much progress as they may be capable of. Children with identified special educational needs are well supported. For example, staff work in partnership with other agencies to support the individual learning and development of children, completing daily one-to-one activities. Early mathematical skills

are embedded throughout the provision and interweaved throughout play. For example, during outdoor play, children count as they empty and fill a plastic cement mixer.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY541123
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	10080211
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	Johnson, Elaine
Registered person unique reference number	RP909813
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07947 808282

Middlewich Community Pre-School registered in 2016. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold an appropriate level 3 qualification. The pre-school opens on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm, and on Thursday from 9am to 12.30pm.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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