

The Pines Pre School

The Community Centre, Pinehurst Estate, Birdie Way, Hertford,
Hertfordshire SG13 7SX



Inspection date	7 February 2019
Previous inspection date	15 July 2015

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

- The managers regularly observe staff practice and carry out regular supervision meetings to manage their performance. They target training well to meet professional development needs and help staff to continually improve their teaching skills.
- Staff promote children's communication and language skills well. They are aware when children need extra support and work closely with parents and other professionals. Staff plan activities for individual children, to help them make more rapid progress with their speaking and listening skills.
- Managers analyse the progress different groups of children make to identify any gaps in teaching and learning as early as possible. Planning, observation and assessment are robust and focused on individual children's progress and next steps in learning.
- Parents speak highly of the staff. They state their children feel safe and secure and receive good education that prepares them well for starting school.
- Managers carefully review any accidents that occur and take appropriate action to reduce them. For example, they review risk assessments of the environment and this helps them keep children safe.
- At times, the staff do not organise the times between activities and routines as well as they could. This results in children not being engaged in any productive activity and they find it hard to wait.
- Staff do not always give children clear messages about the importance of having regular drinks of water to stay hydrated.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the daily routine to encourage children to be consistently motivated and engaged in productive activity
- support children further to understand about their good health and the importance of having regular drinks of water.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staffs' teaching and their interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children and held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspector observed an adult-led activity with the deputy manager and held a discussion with her about staff's teaching and children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a sample of paperwork, including staff qualifications, suitability checks and safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector
Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff regularly review and update their safeguarding knowledge and have a good understanding of their role in keeping children safe. They know the signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm and how to report any concerns about children's welfare. Staff turnover is low. Despite this, the provider has robust procedures for recruiting new staff and to check their suitability. New staff follow a thorough induction procedure to help them to quickly understand their role and responsibilities. The managers and staff evaluate the provision and make plans to improve outcomes for children. For example, they have developed focused action plans following recent evaluations of the environment and the activities they provide.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively identify children's starting points in learning when they start to attend the pre-school. They gain detailed information from parents and observe children through settling visits, to find out about children's interests and what they need to learn next. Staff use this information to plan challenging experiences, which help all children to make good progress. Staff provide opportunities for children to make independent choices and initiate their own play. They interact with children well, such as to teach mathematics. For example, staff help children to sequence numbers and to work out how many pieces of dough they have when they add one more piece or take one away.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive at the pre-school, appearing happy and eager to play and learn. Staff greet children very well and children immediately choose where and what they want to play with. This demonstrates a secure sense of belonging and emotional well-being. Children have many opportunities to be outdoors. They practise using their good physical skills, for example, they use their arms to pull themselves up a climbing frame and learn how to balance using balance bikes. Children's behaviour is good. They play cooperatively, take turns and show respect for each other and for adults. Children show high levels of independence and develop good self-care skills. Staff encourage children to complete tasks for themselves, such as by self-registering when they arrive and putting on their coats.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress, including those who are in receipt of extra funding. They are developing into independent learners and are well prepared for their next stages of learning and ultimately for school. Children enjoy being imaginative and express themselves freely in many different ways, such as through music, craft activities and role play. They quickly learn to recognise their names and other familiar signs and words they see in the environment. This helps them to prepare for reading and learning how to write words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY284024
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063558
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	26
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Hertford Community Church Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP904365
Date of previous inspection	15 July 2015
Telephone number	07989 434772

The Pines Pre School registered in 2004. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm with a lunch club from 12.30pm until 1.30pm on Wednesday and Friday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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