

Whittingham Pre-school



Whittingham Methodist Church, Whittingham Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4WA

Inspection date	5 February 2019
Previous inspection date	13 January 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

- Staff plan a vibrant and interesting learning environment where children are keen to explore and show a positive approach towards new activities. All children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff get to know children and their families very well. They are sensitive and responsive to children's emerging needs. Children are settled, happy and content.
- Children attend activities in the local community and go on outings with staff. This builds their confidence in different social settings.
- Partnership working is very good. A two-way flow of information is shared with parents, professionals and other providers. Children benefit from continuity in their care and education between all those involved in their lives.
- Members of the management team value the opinions of staff and parents. They use the information obtained to evaluate and plan for improvements.
- At times, staff do not adapt adult-led activities well enough to ensure they fully interest and engage all children in their learning.
- Staff do not consistently provide enough opportunities for the most able children to link sounds to letters and build on their good literacy skills.
- Systems for monitoring information about the progress of different groups of children are not yet fully embedded.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the support children receive during adult-led activities to interest and engage them all consistently
- strengthen opportunities for the most able children to learn to link sounds and letters, to further enhance their good literacy skills
- strengthen the current arrangements for comparing information about the progress made by different groups of children to help close any gaps in learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion and written feedback provided.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers and staff have a secure understanding of safeguarding guidance. They are alert to the different indicators that suggest a child may be suffering from neglect or harm. They know which agencies they need to liaise with to report their concerns. Staff conduct daily risk assessment checks on the environment, indoors and outside. This helps to keep the children safe. The management team implements robust vetting procedures to help ensure that staff's ongoing suitability is continually monitored. The manager provides staff with regular supervisory meetings and appraisals to further support their professional development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe and assess children's abilities. They make use of what they know to plan activities and experiences that promote the next steps in children's learning. Children greatly enjoy activities where they can be creative and use their own ideas. They demonstrate delightful imaginations as they work together and introduce storylines into their role play. Staff interact with children at their level. They ask appropriate questions and encourage children to explain what they are doing. They also support children to share resources and work together. This builds on their language development and social skills. Children in receipt of additional funding and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from the support and help they need. All children progress well in their development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have a kind and nurturing approach. They are good role models for children and consistently teach them to take turns, share and consider the needs of others. Children behave well. They are valued as unique individuals and staff form extremely respectful relationships with them. This develops children's confidence and self-identity. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. For example, children enjoy healthy snacks and meals and they access a wide range of opportunities for exercise in the garden. This supports their physical skills and overall well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are becoming successful learners equipped with the skills they need in readiness for their eventual move on to school. Children are inquisitive and adventurous. They persist with activities and become absorbed in what they are doing. Children are confident and independent. They make choices about what they want to do and manage their own care needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	119538
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10069011
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Kennedy, Linda
Registered person unique reference number	RP906708
Date of previous inspection	13 January 2014
Telephone number	01702 603229

Whittingham Pre-school registered in 1976. The setting employs seven members of staff. It opens Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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