

The Avenue Preschool

St Andrews Youth Hall, Charles Street, Cleethorpes, North East
Lincolnshire DN35 8QB



Inspection date	27 February 2019
Previous inspection date	3 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- Leaders do not provide Ofsted with the necessary information to enable it to complete full suitability checks for all committee members.
- Fresh drinking water is not accessible to children at all times during the day.
- Some aspects for monitoring staff performance and reviewing the impact from training opportunities are not fully effective to enhance the quality of the provision further.
- Staff do not consistently make the most of opportunities to extend and build on older and more-able children's learning.
- Methods for parents to contribute to the playgroup's evaluation of practice, so they can give their ideas for future development, are not highly effective.

It has the following strengths

- Staff place a good focus on supporting children's language and communication skills. For instance, they repeat words, pronounce them correctly and ask children meaningful questions to encourage them to speak.
- Staff are friendly and caring. Children form secure attachments with staff who care for them. Children learn to manage their behaviour and are emotionally settled. They follow the good examples set by staff.
- Well-qualified staff complete observations of children as they play. Tracking of children's progress is targeted and precise. Any gaps in children's development are identified and addressed quickly.

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
provide Ofsted with the necessary information in a timely way, to enable all suitability checks for committee members to be fully completed	27/03/2019
ensure children can access fresh drinking water at all times, particularly during outdoor play and experiences.	13/03/2019

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

- reflect on the process for monitoring staff performance and focus more highly on embedding information and knowledge from training opportunities
- increase staff's understanding of how to extend and provide more challenge for the older and more-able children to help ensure consistently high-quality learning experiences
- strengthen the system for self-evaluation so that all parents' views are regularly considered when evaluating and reflecting on practice and when considering future improvements.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection. She held a meeting with the playgroup manager and looked at relevant documentation, including the evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used by children. She observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector discussed methods used for self-evaluation and the impact this has on the playgroup.
- The inspector looked at children's records, observation and assessment files, planning documentation and a selection of policies. The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Kerry Holder

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff understand their roles and responsibilities and the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The manager is experienced and leads a stable, long-standing staff team. However, leaders do not complete suitability checks for new members of the committee promptly. Although this is a breach of requirements, the impact on children is minimal because staff supervise children closely. All staff working directly with children complete suitability checks. The manager is beginning to use some strategies aimed at improving the consistency of teaching, such as sharing good practice and involving staff in supervision meetings. However, although staff attend training and have development opportunities which help to enhance the care they provide, the manager does not focus enough on reviewing the impact of training. This does not successfully improve the quality of practice overall. The staff work well together to identify areas to develop. However, self-evaluation does not include feedback from parents. Effective links are in place with other settings that children attend.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have access to a good choice of resources to stimulate and encourage them in their learning. For example, children use their imagination as they paint and make models with play dough. Staff enthusiastically invite children to join in with activities and engage them in friendly conversations and group discussions. This helps children to develop a sense of belonging and motivates them to learn. However, on a few occasions, staff do not challenge children to the highest of levels, to ensure consistency in the already high-quality learning experiences. Staff work closely with parents when they identify that a child is not developing as quickly as they should. They provide good support to help close gaps in children's learning and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Due to the weaknesses in leadership and management, the promotion of children's welfare requires improvement. Nevertheless, staff meet children's individual needs and get to know them and their families well. Staff work closely with parents when children first start, which helps children settle easily into the playgroup. This good focus on supporting children to manage change continues as children then move on to school. Children have regular access to fresh air and physical activities outdoors. They take part in action songs, and regularly visit the local beach. However, children do not always have access to drinks, particularly during outdoor play.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning and development overall. They are motivated and are confident to explore their environment. Children thoroughly enjoy taking part in role-play activities. For instance, children pretend to be shopkeepers and use pretend money to buy items from their peers. This helps to support children's understanding of the world and the concept of money. Children develop skills to support them in their next stage of learning, and to prepare them for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	205553
Local authority	North East Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10069621
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	The Avenue Pre-School
Registered person unique reference number	RP518518
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2014
Telephone number	01472 601271

The Avenue Preschool registered in 1999. It employs six members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. The sessions on Monday to Thursday are from 9.15am to 3.15pm and on Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The playgroup 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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