

Inspection of Haslingfield Little Owls Preschool

The Methodist Church, High Street, Haslingfield, Cambridge CB23 1JW

Inspection date: 21 June 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are eager to attend the pre-school and happily separate from their parents in the outdoor area. They demonstrate that they are familiar with the daily routines. Children know where to place their bags and drink bottles before sitting on a cushion ready for the 'morning meet'. Children develop friendships and laugh as they enjoy playing together. They show that they have positive relationships with staff and are eager to share their experiences from home. Children develop their independence. They learn self-care skills, including the importance of good hygiene.

There are plentiful opportunities for children to explore and learn about nature. Children dig for worms and, when they find them, are keen to point out that they look like a familiar letter or number. Staff are enthusiastic and encouraging in their approach. They offer lots of praise and build children's confidence as they do so.

Children have many opportunities for physical activities, which has a positive impact on their mental health and well-being. They climb the large tree and tell staff, 'I'm pretending to be a squirrel'. Staff supervise children well. Children are eager to change their clothes in readiness for the weekly physical education session. This helps to prepare them for the next stage in their learning, such as starting school.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The trustees, as the registered provider, have a thorough oversight of the pre-school provision. The new manager is dedicated and passionate about working with staff, parents and children to bring about improvements and enhance the provision. Staff thoughtfully monitor and adapt the environment and the daily routine to meet children's individual needs. For example, changes have been made to the outdoor area and staff have identified that, as a result, children are now more engaged in their play.
- The manager has a clear understanding of what is important for children to learn, taking account of their experiences at home and in the wider world. The staff share this vision and together provide an exciting curriculum that meets all children's individual learning and development needs.
- Staff complete thorough risk assessments to ensure the environment is safe and suitable. They expertly support children to learn how to manage risks and keep themselves safe. For example, they use 'Digby' the hand puppet to talk about how to climb the tree safely and explain the importance of cutting grapes in half.
- Staff use every opportunity to support children's communication skills. They spend much of their time engaging children in conversation and actively listen to what they have to say. Some staff are very skilled in the use of 'Makaton' sign

language and use this to enhance interactions throughout the session.

- Children have a broad range of experiences which help them to learn about people and communities beyond their own. They confidently use their acquired knowledge in their play. For example, children call out 'Hola' to their friends as they climb the tree.
- Parents are extremely complimentary of the pre-school and staff. They say that they like that the pre-school is 'very outdoorsy' and comment that their children are 'thriving and making huge leaps in their progress'.
- The manager provides staff with strong levels of support. Staff say the pre-school 'is an amazing place to work' and their well-being is always discussed. Supervisions and staff meetings are used to discuss and identify any gaps in staff's knowledge and any training needs. The manager monitors staff performance closely and provides ongoing opportunities for staff to shadow good practice. However, there are times when staff do not yet have the confidence to consistently challenge and extend children's learning.
- Children develop a love of books. They access them readily and enjoy listening to stories read by staff. Children have their own 'library cards' and select books to take home to share with their parents.
- Staff are kind and caring and model respectful behaviour. They support children to talk about their feelings and opinions. However, this is not yet embedded. This means that children do not consistently understand the impact their behaviour may have on others.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The provider follows robust recruitment and induction procedures to ensure that staff and all committee members are suitable for their role. Ongoing checks are carried out to help ensure that all staff remain suitable to be in contact with children. The manager is committed to ensuring that staff maintain a good understanding of their duties in safeguarding children. All staff understand the action they must take if they have a concern about the welfare of a child. Staff complete regular training to deepen their knowledge of safeguarding issues.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to challenge and extend children's learning to ensure that children achieve as much as they can
- further support children to develop a better understanding of how their behaviour may have an impact on others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY555580
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10174685
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Haslingfield Little Owls Preschool CIO
Registered person unique reference number	RP555579
Telephone number	07771524478
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Haslingfield Little Owls Preschool re-registered in 2017 and is a charitable incorporated organisation. It is situated in Haslingfield, Cambridge. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff and an administrator. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Thursday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm on Monday and Tuesday, and from 9am until 1pm on Wednesday and Thursday. The pre-school provides funded early education places for eligible two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karen Harris

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic on the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the curriculum and what it is that they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this has on children's learning.
- Children and staff spoke to the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- Parents shared their views of the pre-school with the inspector during discussion and through written feedback. The inspector took account of these views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual and the manager about the leadership and management of the pre-school. The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.

We carried out this inspection 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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