

Inspection of Our Lady of Ransom Preschool

Pope John Paul Hall, London Road, RAYLEIGH, Essex SS6 9DT

Inspection date: 21 June 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

The provider failed to inform Ofsted of a significant event. However, this has not had a negative impact on children's welfare. Children are happy and settled at the pre-school. They become extremely engaged in a wide range of inviting activities that spark their curiosity and interests. Children work collaboratively together to design a bridge out of wooden blocks for dinosaurs to cross the 'water'. They are excited to make their own suggestions and offer ideas about how to improve their construction. Outdoors, children are fascinated to watch the water on the ground disappear in the sunshine. Staff skilfully introduce complex words, such as 'evaporate'.

Snack times provide opportunities for children to be independent. They serve themselves and safely cut their own fruit with a knife. Staff provide younger children with softer fruit, such as bananas, to help them practise their emerging skills. Children show kindness to each other. They are praised for trying to tie their friend's apron and offering to help them turn on the tap on the water butt.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, staff identified that some children needed extra support to develop their communication and language skills. After discussions with teachers at the local school, staff reviewed their current speech and language approach and introduced a new initiative. Staff and parents have seen that children have made good progress, helping to close gaps in their development.

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

- The provider did not notify Ofsted of an incident involving a child in their care. However, they have kept records and informed parents at the time, as required.
- The manager leads a strong team of staff who work well together. She uses her mentoring experience to coach and oversee staff's practice to identify areas for improvement. Staff say that they feel supported and valued.
- The balanced curriculum is planned to support children's development in all areas of their learning. Staff use their good knowledge of their key children to plan activities that help children make progress. For example, they successfully introduced dinosaurs on the play dough table and in the painting area to attract children who are more reluctant to engage in creative activities.
- Staff understand the importance of sharing books, stories and rhymes with the children. They plan enjoyable activities that link to a weekly story. Children talk about growing a beanstalk like the character in their current book. They learn and use the words they have heard in the story. This builds on their vocabulary and understanding.
- Children choose whether they want to play indoors or in the welcoming garden. The outdoor area provides plenty of scope for them to explore and be curious.

Children access the large equipment to practise their physical skills, climbing through and over tunnels and competently using the climbing frame.

- Indoors and outdoors, staff join in children's play to enhance their experiences. For example, children eagerly 'sell' ice creams and help the adults decide what flavour they would like. Children perform on a stage and have access to a range of props, such as microphones and dressing-up items. An adult enthusiastically introduces the acts and encourages the performer to bow while the audience clap. This helps children to gain confidence.
- Inclusion is threaded through the pre-school practice. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are exceptionally well supported. The special educational needs coordinator is highly experienced. She works closely with the team to identify any concerns at the earliest opportunity. Tailored interventions are put in place to help all children reach their full potential.
- Parents have high praise for the pre-school. They appreciate how supportive the team is and are reassured by the care their children receive. Parents describe how children are confident and have developed a wide vocabulary as a result of being at the pre-school. Parents feel well informed. Sometimes, ongoing information is not shared with parents, following incidents at the pre-school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff team are clear about their responsibilities to keep children safe. They are confident about how to escalate their concerns if they are worried about a child or any adult working with children. Vetting and recruitment processes are in place to assess adults' suitability to work in the pre-school. Registers and accident records are kept accurately and are used to identify any patterns that may indicate a child is at risk. Staff are vigilant and provide appropriate levels of supervision, indoors and outdoors, at all times.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
improve knowledge of when to notify Ofsted of significant events.	08/07/2022

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

- share ongoing information with parents about any incidents to build on the existing good parent partnerships.

Setting details

Unique reference number	203840
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10245333
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 at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	59
Name of registered person	Our Lady of Ransom Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP900887
Telephone number	01268 780050
Date of previous inspection	12 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

Our Lady of Ransom Preschool registered in 1993 and is run by a committee. The pre-school employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and the manager holds a degree at level 6. The pre-school opens from 9am until 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, during school term times. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Fiona Sapler

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 with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager completed a learning walk with the inspector and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity outdoors.
- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and children and assessed the quality of education being provided.
- Parents shared their views on the pre-school with the inspector.
- 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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