

Inspection of Holy Family Playgroup With Out Of School Clubs

Holy Family Church Hall, Links Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1 2RU

Inspection date: 20 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Leaders and staff have worked hard to improve the overall quality of the provision. They have taken steps to update their safeguarding knowledge and are actively working on strengthening the quality of educational practice across the setting. This means children's safety and welfare are protected and all children are supported to make consistently good progress. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make particularly good progress from their starting points.

Children benefit greatly from warm and nurturing interactions with the staff. Children listen attentively as staff read stories to them. They are eager to join in and are captivated by staff's skilful telling of the story. Staff are excellent role models who treat all children fairly and with respect. As a result, children, including those who are new to the setting, are happy, settled and quickly develop strong bonds with their key person. This, in turn, has a positive impact on their behaviour. Children are extremely kind, caring and have impeccable manners. They eagerly arrive at the pre-school and are ready to learn.

Staff are aware that some children have had different experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Children and their families are held in high regard by the staff. For example, when children and their parents are anxious at the start of placement, the key person implements individualised settling-in sessions and makes time to meet with parents and their child. This puts them at ease these and helps to make them feel comfortable. Parents speak very highly of the staff and say the pre-school is 'like a family'.

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

- Leadership and oversight of the pre-school is much improved since the last inspection. Staff benefit from regular supervision and coaching from the manager. This includes a review of their training needs and support for their workload and well-being. The manager has started to implement some peer observations to further raise the quality of educational practice. However, these are still in their infancy and not yet having the full effect to raise the quality of staff's teaching to the highest levels.
- Children's speech and language skills are well supported. Staff engage in meaningful conversations with children and invite them to share their experiences and ideas. For example, older children confidently talk about their home lives, families and favourite things. Staff's constant narration and gentle encouragement for children to repeat words help younger to build their vocabulary.
- Staff make good use of daily routines and activities to help children build on

their mathematical skills. For example, outside, children count out how many bubbles they blow and how many footprints they make in the sand with the dinosaurs. At snack time, children count out the number of fruit items they have on their plate. Children understand concepts such as place value. For example, they know that if they have two dinosaurs and add one more, they will then have three.

- Children love the outdoors and have good physical skills. They expertly manoeuvre around obstacles as they run around and ride tricycles. Children balance on pieces of equipment and confidently land as they jump off. Children attend sessions such as 'park rangers' and visit the local parks and the beach. These further support children's large physical skills and help them build their confidence away from the pre-school.
- The dedicated cook makes sure all meals and snacks provided for children are healthy, nutritious, and meet children's individual dietary needs. Children independently wash and dry their own hands and, at times, are afforded the opportunity serve themselves snack and pour their own drinks. However, sometimes, staff are too quick to intervene and take over. This means children do not get consistent opportunities to build on their existing self-help skills.
- Children behave extremely well and understand what is expected of them. Staff help children develop an awareness of how they are unique. For example, during circle time, children hold out their arms and compare their skin colours. Children embark on many different outing within the local area. This helps them to gain an understanding of the wider world around them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager has undertaken training to ensure she has the knowledge and understanding to be the designated safeguarding lead. In addition, all staff have attended safeguarding training, including refreshing their knowledge of the 'Prevent' duty. This ensures children's ongoing safety and welfare. Children demonstrate that they are gaining an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know to wait for staff before going through the outdoor gate and line up as they move between indoors and outside so staff can check they are all present. Procedures for the recruitment and vetting of staff are robust.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- embed the newly introduced arrangements for staff supervision to further enhance staff's educational practice to the highest levels
- review how routine times of the day are carried out to provide children with more opportunities to develop their independence and self-help skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2506604
Local authority	Blackpool
Inspection number	10244066
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 10
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	124
Name of registered person	Holy Family Playgroup And Out Of School Clubs Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	2506603
Telephone number	01253595762
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2022

Information about this early years setting

Holy Family Playgroup With Out Of School Clubs registered in 2019 and is situated in Blackpool, Lancashire. The provision employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, four have an appropriate early years qualification at level 6 and five have qualifications between level 2 and level 5. The manager has early years teacher status. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm. The out-of-school club operates during term time from 7.45am until 9am and from 3.15pm until 5.30pm. A holiday club opens during most school holidays for children from two years of age. The provision provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Donna Birch

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed and continued impact from the COVID-19 pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager, deputy manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The manager and the inspector took part in a joint observation.
- Children spoke to the inspector about their friends and what they like to do at the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke with the staff throughout the inspection and took account of their views
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

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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