

Inspection of Hope Methodist Church Playgroup

Hope Methodist Church, Oldham Road, Failsworth, Manchester M35 9AN

Inspection date: 8 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive happy and are safe at this vibrant setting. They wave their parents off at the front door and embrace staff with cuddles. Children show good levels of independence as they take care of their personal belongings. They hang their coats up and are eager to tell staff about their family members. Children confidently greet the inspector and show him a 'magical road' that they have built for their toy cars. Younger children snuggle into staff while staff sing them nursery rhymes and read stories to them. Older children giggle with delight while taking part in relay races. Children show good levels of behaviour and have positive attitudes towards their learning. They develop good skills in readiness for their move on to school.

Children show a love of reading. They select books and share them with their friends. Children talk about the pictures and who their favourite characters are. Staff support children's large-muscle development very well. Children relish opportunities to play outdoors. They chase bubbles, kick balls and learn to ride scooters. Children count the number of steps that they take towards staff and skilfully balance on apparatus outdoors. They have a strong sense of belonging and are proud of their achievements. For example, children beam with delight as they show staff their artwork.

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

- Since the last Ofsted inspection, leaders have worked hard to remedy the weaknesses that were previously identified. They have worked with external professionals to bring about change. The deputy manager is passionate about the setting and wants to take it from strength to strength. Self-evaluation is accurate and leaders are reflective about all aspects of the setting. They strive for the setting to be the best.
- In the main, a well-sequenced curriculum is in place, that builds on what children know and can do. However, leaders have not been precise enough in how they can support older children's learning to the highest level. This means that, on occasion, some activities are not pitched at the correct level for older children. For example, some staff provide a painting activity about poppies that links to Remembrance Day. Children ask questions about poppies, such as where they come from, but staff do not extend this learning for children.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills well. They model words correctly and teach them new vocabulary. Children enjoy engaging in conversations with their friends and are confident communicators.
- Staff support children's emotional well-being extremely well. They spend time getting to know children, parents and their families when they first start at the setting. Staff give children reassurance and sing to them if they become upset. Children settle quickly and form secure bonds with staff and other children.

- Overall, staff receive high levels of support and guidance during supervisory sessions and appraisal meetings. They report that their well-being is given high priority by leaders and that they 'love' working at the setting. Staff attend mandatory training, such as in child protection. However, leaders have not established a highly successful programme of professional development for staff, to raise their practice to a higher level.
- Care practices are good. Staff teach children about good oral health and how to keep healthy. Staff provide children with nutritious foods and teach them about the importance of good hygiene. Children talk about washing germs from their hands before they eat and why it is important to keep hydrated.
- Leaders teach children about some celebrations and festivals from around the world, such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. However, they identify that they would like to provide children with broader opportunities to learn about similarities and differences beyond their own experiences.
- Partnership working is a strength of the setting. Staff keep parents informed about their children's care and learning. Parents commend leaders and state that the setting is 'excellent'. Links with external professionals and other childcare settings are robust.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All areas of the premises are safe and secure. Staff check the identification of visitors and ensure children are supervised with vigilance. They teach children about keeping safe, such as road and e-safety. Children remind one another to be careful and help to clean up water on the floor in case anyone slips. Staff are first-aid trained and know how to deal with accidents and injuries. They attend child protection training and understand the whistle-blowing procedure. The designated person for child protection understands her role very well. She is aware of local safeguarding issues and keeps abreast with changes in policy. She understands the possible indicators of female genital mutilation, fabricated illness and cuckooing.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- increase challenge in the curriculum for older children
- strengthen the programme of professional development for staff and provide them with more incisive feedback around their interactions with children, to raise their practice to a higher level
- better support children to have a greater understanding of similarities and differences beyond their own experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY555060
Local authority	Oldham
Inspection number	10226726
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 3
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	Hope Methodist Church
Registered person unique reference number	RP555059
Telephone number	07549627869
Date of previous inspection	17 January 2022

Information about this early years setting

Hope Methodist Church Playgroup originally opened in 1992. It re-registered in 2018 following changes to the registered person. The setting employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The setting operates each Monday to Wednesday during term time only. Sessions are available from 9.30am until 12.30pm and from 12.30pm until 2.30pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Luke Heaney

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with leaders and has taken that into account in his evaluation of the setting.
- The deputy manager and the inspector completed a learning walk.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and deputy manager.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children throughout the day and evaluated the impact on children's learning.
- Relevant documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including evidence of the suitability and training of staff.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The views of parents were taken into consideration by the inspector, through written testimonials and discussions.

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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