

Inspection of Hall Lane Pre-School

Hall Lane Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Whitwick, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 5PF

Inspection date: 30 November 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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children have strong relationships with nurturing staff at this warm and welcoming pre-school. They arrive happily and say 'goodbye' to their parents confidently, before going inside to find out what activities are on offer. Children understand the routines of the day well and are very independent. They hang their coats on their pegs and put their lunch boxes on the trolley. Staff support children who speak English as an additional language by using a photo book to help them understand what to do.

Children's behaviour is good. They use manners, saying 'please' and 'thank you' without being prompted. When minor disagreements occur, staff swiftly intervene to support the children. For example, when children take their friend's toy pushchair, staff model to children how to ask to have a turn.

Children benefit from a well-planned curriculum that helps them to meet the next stages in their learning. Staff plan activities that interest children, following observations or discussions with their parents. For example, children are fascinated by a tree surgeon chopping down a tree. Staff introduce role play activities for children. Children engage for sustained periods, pretending to chop down trees with a toy chainsaw.

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

- Staff find out all about children before they start at the pre-school. They use this information to broaden the experiences children have. Staff recognise that some children do not have opportunities to learn outdoors. They take children on nature walks in the local area to look for different natural objects, such as leaves. Back at the pre-school, children enjoy making a nature collage with what they have found.
- Children have many opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills. They explain to visitors to the pre-school how they have to have 'listening ears' so they can hear what other children and adults say. Children benefit from a language-rich environment. Staff skilfully introduce new words to them. For example, when they use creative materials, staff describe feathers as 'fluffy' and 'soft'. Children gradually begin to use these words themselves.
- Staff provide children with opportunities to develop their understanding of living a healthy lifestyle. They talk to children about the importance of using a tissue to wipe their noses and remind children to sanitise their hands with gel afterwards. Children have opportunities to be energetic and explore the outdoors in the pre-school garden or the local community. Staff provide children with healthy snacks such as breadsticks and raisins. However, they do not consistently support children to understand what foods are healthy or unhealthy.

- Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the care the staff provide. They feel fully informed about their children's learning and development. Parents look forward to the regular craft sessions the pre-school holds, where they can join in with their children. They comment that the experienced staff help them feel 'at ease' with leaving their children there. Many parents have recommended the pre-school to others.
- Staff support children to develop a love of reading. They read to children throughout the day. Children access a wide range of books, including those that introduce them to different cultures and diversities. Staff interact with children and encourage them to retell stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs'. Children giggle as staff change their voices for the Big Bad Wolf.
- Since their last inspection, staff have accessed a range of training to develop their skills. They are reflective and recognise what is working well within the pre-school. Staff identify what could be improved further. They have recently attended training on how to support children's mathematical development. Staff now include mathematical activities in more areas of the learning environment. However, at times, staff do not build on children's interest in numbers. For example, when children notice the numbers one and zero written on an activity card, staff do not consistently support them to recognise this is the number 10.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding. They can identify the signs and symptoms which may indicate a child's welfare is at risk. The staff know the procedures to follow, should they be concerned about a child, in line with local safeguarding partnership guidance. They display confidence when discussing how they would manage an allegation or concern about another member of staff. The manager ensures staff receive regular safeguarding training to ensure their knowledge is kept up to date. Robust recruitment procedures are in place to check the suitability of staff. Staff support children to take part in regular fire drills so they know how to exit the building safely in the event of a fire.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- promote discussion with children about healthy foods, to develop their understanding of healthy lifestyles
- support staff to develop their understanding of how to extend children's mathematical knowledge and skills even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226206
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10234395
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	26
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Community Pre-Schools Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP521516
Telephone number	07794905974
Date of previous inspection	9 January 2017

Information about this early years setting

Hall Lane Pre-School registered in 1996. It is located in Whitwick, Coalville, Leicestershire. The pre-school is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8.30am to 1pm, and on Thursday, from 8.30am to midday, during term time only. The pre-school employs four members of staff. Of these, three have early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Emily Lofts

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 inspector viewed the pre-school and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- Parents and grandparents shared their views of the pre-school with the inspector.

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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