

Inspection of Sweethearts Preschool

Elim Church, 68 Elm Grove, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 9EH

Inspection date: 23 January 2023

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's welfare is not assured. Although managers have some understanding of risk, they have not taken sufficient action to reduce these risks in the event of an emergency. Not all fire exits are clear of obstructions. In addition, there is no effective fire detection and control equipment as required. Managers, however, do ensure that staff and visitors have a clear understanding of the fire evacuation instructions.

Children do not benefit from an ambitious curriculum. The curriculum is poorly implemented and staff do not demonstrate a secure understanding of what they want children to learn overall. Although staff set up activities based on children's interests, the learning intent for the activity is very broad and based on a topic rather than children's developmental needs.

Despite these weaknesses, children enjoy their time at pre-school. They happily come in and are eager to see the staff. Children begin to develop a sense of independence. For example, very young children are determined to feed themselves, and older children learn to put on their own coats. Children hear new vocabulary, such as 'bicarbonate of soda', as they take part in an experiment. They giggle in delight as they create foam using the bicarbonate and vinegar.

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

- Managers have not taken enough action to ensure children's safety in the event of emergency, such as a fire. They do not recognise that the fire exit from the baby room is not clear and that furniture in the hall creates an obstruction if an emergency evacuation was needed. Furthermore, fire detection and control equipment does not meet fire regulations or the requirements of the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. For example, at the time of inspection, fire control equipment had not been regularly maintained and was out of date.
- Staff do not demonstrate a good understanding of the curriculum and what their overall aims for children's learning are. Children do not benefit from a curriculum that is ambitious, nor does it build on what children already know and can do. Learning is often incidental and does not help children reach their full potential.
- Daily routines are not managed effectively to ensure the needs of all children are being met. Children become restless and argumentative when they have to wait for a significant period of time for everyone to be ready to go into the garden. Staff focus on the routine tasks during transitions. For example, children are changed without interactions from the staff, so that they can be ready quickly.
- Staff take part in supervision meetings with the manager. They comment that they feel these are supportive. However, the manager does not use supervision

to robustly ensure the ongoing suitability of the staff. This includes ensuring they have sufficient knowledge to fulfil their roles, such as how to plan an ambitious curriculum.

- Parents speak warmly of the kind and caring staff as well as the provision. They explain that they really like the 'home-from-home' feeling. Parents explain that communication is good, with staff providing frequent updates via an app about their children's day.
- Staff do try and provide children with opportunities and activities that they may not ordinarily experience. For example, they give children time to engage in messy play activities.
- The staff have found different ways to support children's physical development. For example, children enjoy climbing on an indoor climbing frame and then sliding down the slide. They also enjoy outings to the local park and the beach.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Children are not kept safe as the provider does not take all reasonable steps to ensure children's safety in the event of an emergency, such as a fire. However, staff demonstrate a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk from abuse. They know how to report their concerns to their designated safeguarding lead and how to report concerns via local safeguarding partner processes if needed. This includes the processes to follow if an allegation against a member of staff was made.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire, and ensure that emergency evacuation procedures are effective in all areas of the nursery, including keeping fire exits clear of obstructions	07/02/2023

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

	Due date
ensure all staff understand how to plan and deliver a well-sequenced curriculum that precisely meets the individual needs and development stages of all children	26/02/2023
put effective processes in place to assess the ongoing suitability of staff, ensuring they have sufficient knowledge to fulfil their roles.	26/02/2023

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

- review and improve the daily routine to ensure children remain engaged during transitions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2603164
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10262914
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Sweethearts Preschool Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2603162
Telephone number	07907640877
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Sweethearts Preschool registered in 2020 and is situated on Hayling Island in Hampshire. The pre-school operates from 8am until 4pm each weekday, during term time only. It accepts funding for eligible two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are six members of staff, all of whom hold qualifications at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Natasha Jarvis

Inspection activities

- This is 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 explained the curriculum intentions to the inspector during the learning walk.
- The inspector took part in discussions with the managers and staff during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector observed and evaluated an activity together.
- The inspector observed staff and children throughout the day.
- Parents shared their views with the inspector through discussions.
- The inspector sampled relevant documents.

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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