

Inspection of High Littleton Pre-School

The Methodist Centre, High Street, High Littleton, BRISTOL BS39 6JD

Inspection date: 1 February 2023

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Leaders do not carry out robust risk assessments. There are weaknesses in identifying and minimising safety hazards. Leaders have failed to carry out suitability checks for all committee members, therefore, children's safety is at risk.

Although there are weaknesses in leadership concerning children's overall safety, the manager and her team are passionate about children's learning and development. They provide an ambitious curriculum based on children's interests and what they need to learn next. Children's motivation to learn is high. They are eager to join in the activities provided. Children of all ages display good levels of concentration during group activities. Staff praise children's efforts in a targeted manner, saying for instance, 'you are doing good listening', 'good waiting'. This supports children in understanding the desired behaviour and boosts self-esteem.

Children show confidence as they choose the toys they want to play with in the classroom and in the garden. Children form strong relationships with their key person and their behaviour is good. They are kind to each other, they share and take turns nicely. Parents comment positively on the care and education provided for their child at this setting. They contribute to their child's learning via the termly meeting with their child's key person and feedback at collection times. Partnership with parents is good.

Children are happy and settled. All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) are making good progress in all areas of learning.

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

- Although risk assessments are in place, the manager and staff do not identify possible risks to children. Children are able to go to the toilet unsupervised but staff do not consider the risks that are present. For instance, children can access the kitchen where hot drinks are within their reach. Children can leave the building without staff being aware, due to them accessing areas of the building that are not secure. Leaders do not have a secure understanding of their responsibilities to always keep children safe while in their care.
- The provider failed to notify Ofsted of changes to members of the committee within the required timescale and failed to obtain Disclosure and Barring Service check. Therefore, children's overall safety is compromised.
- The staff provide many opportunities for the children to develop speech and language skills. They take into consideration children's age and stage of development when introducing new vocabulary. The younger children learn the names of different colours and textures and the names of the items they play

with. The older children talk about their story-making activity. Staff support them in using the correct words to describe a scene or story sequence. Staff give time for children to think about what they want to say. All children are becoming good communicators.

- The manager and her team identify the needs of children with SEND quickly. They work effectively with external professionals to provide children and families with specialist interventions. Due to the effective strategies put in place, the children are making good progress in all areas of learning. The manager applies for additional funding when required to help children get all the support and help that they need to enable them to make the best progress.
- Staff encourage children to learn about the wider community. They learn about different festivals and read books which reflect diversity.
- The staff discuss healthy food choices with the parents and children. Staff teach children good hygiene practices. Children know why they need to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The children relish the opportunities they have to develop good physical skills. They ride bikes, use obstacle courses and run with joy. Staff promote healthy lifestyles.
- The manager's evaluation regarding the quality of education is accurate. She identifies the strengths of the curriculum delivered to the children and areas for improvement. The staff talks positively about the support they receive from the management.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Staff do not have a thorough understanding of how to keep children safe from harm. Risk assessments are not robust, leading to hazards that compromise children's well-being and safety. Staff know the signs that suggest a child may be at risk of harm or abuse. They know how to record, report and escalate concerns. Staff attend regular safeguarding training to keep their knowledge up to date.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
identify risks and take all reasonable steps to ensure children in their care are safe at all times	22/02/2023
ensure relevant checks are carried out on all committee members to ensure their suitability.	22/02/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	133010
Local authority	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Inspection number	10263765
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	High Littleton Pre-School Trust Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909607
Telephone number	01761 470 410
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2017

Information about this early years setting

High Littleton Pre-School registered in 1996. It operates from the Methodist Church Hall in the village of High Littleton, near Bath. The pre-school is open during school term times on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9am until 3pm. The provision receives funding for the early education for children. There are nine members of staff. The manager holds a qualification at level 4 in management. Five staff members, including the manager, hold relevant qualifications at level 3, two staff member hold qualifications at level 2. There are two unqualified staff.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rosie Roberts

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 manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The manager and the inspector conducted a joint observation.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided both indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact on children's learning and development.
- The inspector talked to staff, children and parents at appropriate times and took consideration of their views.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documentation and checked the suitability of staff to work with children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager to discuss the leadership and management of the setting.

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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