

Inspection of Brambles Community Pre-school

Thornhill Primary School, Byron Road, Southampton SO19 6FH

Inspection date: 23 February 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children happily skip into class, eager to begin their day. They have warm bonds with all staff and behave well. Children are inquisitive and keen to learn. They love sharing their thoughts, ideas and creations with adults who are important to them. For example, children proudly show off the creations they have made with the magnetic building tiles. Children learn about different textures and sensory experiences through play. They play with toy animals in a range of sensory 'habitats'. For example, they enjoy playing with polar bears in shaving foam and ice and 'desert creatures' in the sand. Staff use tablets to help children learn more about the animals when they have questions.

Children develop a love for stories through engaging activities. For example, staff use a range of excited tones and voices to capture children's attention as they listen to their favourite stories. Children are enthralled by stories as they shout out their favourite phrases, such as 'do not turn the page'. Children start to learn how to keep themselves safe as they play. For example, young children learn to wait at the top of the slide until it's safe to go down.

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

- The nominated individual has a good oversight of the provision. She has a clear vision and regularly reflects and evaluates. The nominated individual ensures she implements any needed changes quickly and thoroughly. For example, she has reflected on the recording of accidents to ensure any patterns can quickly be identified.
- The ambitious curriculum builds on what children already know and can do. The overall aim is for children to become confident 'life-long learners' who have a 'love for learning'. This helps with their development both now and in the future.
- Staff skilfully support children with their independence. They teach children how to be independent through everyday routines. For example, children learn how to put on their own coats, hats and wellingtons before going out to play in the garden.
- The management team has a good awareness of the local area and where families live. This helps the team provide rich and varied experiences for children to extend their learning and development further. For example, they recognise the importance of outdoor learning for those who do not have access to a garden. As a result, they ensure children have plenty of opportunity to access the garden space.
- All children, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make good progress in their learning and development. Staff work well with external agencies, such as physiotherapists, to ensure children's needs are being met effectively.

- Staff quickly put interventions into place to support children when gaps in development are identified. For example, children highly benefit from a small nurture group. This helps children develop their self-regulation skills and understanding of different emotions. For example, children talk about how they feel that day, using picture cards as prompts. They show the progress they are making by happily and calmly taking part in meditation at the end of group time.
- Additional funding is used well to meet children's needs. For example, staff have purchased climbing equipment to further support the development of children's arm and leg muscles. This helps children to make good progress in their physical development.
- Staff become highly engaged and focused in their activities with the children. However, staff are not always vigilant in ensuring that all children, particularly quieter children, are fully engaged in activities.
- Staff recognise that they want children to be good communicators as part of the curriculum. However, at times, staff do not fully support children's communication development. For example, they use over-complicated instructions with children who do not yet have the understanding. Additionally, staff do not consistently repeat words back to children so that they hear the correct pronunciation. This then impacts on the progress children can make in their language development.
- Parents speak highly of the provision and staff. They feel that staff communicate well. Parents comment positively on the frequent updates they receive through an online journal system which includes ideas of things to do at home with their children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers are highly committed to safeguarding children and demonstrate their commitment 'to be the children's voice' when needed. Staff have a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk from harm. They know how to report these concerns to their designated safeguarding leads. Staff are secure in their understanding of how to report allegations to the relevant external agencies in line with local safeguarding partner processes. They demonstrate a good understanding of the importance of risk assessing the environment and resources each day.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop teaching further to ensure children, particularly those who are quieter, benefit from more adult support to engage in activities
- focus on the development of staff's understanding of communication and

language to ensure children make the best possible progress in their communication and language development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2648058
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	10278335
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	40
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Brambles Community Pre-school
Registered person unique reference number	2648061
Telephone number	02380917637
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Brambles Community Pre-School is located in Thornhill, in Southampton. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, term time only. There are seven members of staff who work at the setting, all of whom hold a relevant level 3 qualification or higher. The pre-school offers early years education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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 nominated individual explained the curriculum intentions to the inspector during the learning walk.
- The inspector took part in discussions with the manager, nominated individual 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.
- The inspector sampled relevant documents.
- Parents shared their views with the inspector through 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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