

Inspection of Gipsey Bridge Preschool

Gipsey Bridge Chapel, Leagate Road, Gipsey Bridge, Boston, Lincolnshire PE22 7BU

Inspection date: 27 April 2023

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 developed a strong bond with their key person. The feeling of security this creates gives them confidence to build relationships and play happily with other children. When exploring nature, staff show toddlers that torches help them to find mini beasts. Children thoroughly enjoy using these to look for bugs in the classroom. They frequently smile and make eye contact with staff, who are just as enthusiastic about finding minibests. Children of all ages sit attentively as they listen to stories. When staff ask children questions about the book, they happily respond and are able to demonstrate their understanding of the story.

Staff give children lots of praise and encouragement, which helps children to foster positive attitudes and develop their self-esteem. Children mirror this in their own play. They hold hands as one child walks along the balancing plank. When the child gets to the other end, their friend says, 'you did it, well done.' Children know staff value their work. For example, staff place a 'work in progress' card by children's models to ensure they do not get tidied away. The curriculum supports children to be ready for their move on to school, such as to develop their social skills. For example, when toddlers hold a pretend tiger they know it is their turn to speak. All children, including those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress.

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

- The experienced manager has a clear vision for the pre-school and values an approach that goes above and beyond for the families that attend the setting. The supportive staff team are keen to create a happy, inviting and nurturing environment, where outcomes for children are at the heart of everything they do. One example of this is the thoughtful use of additional funding to pay for trips out. This contributes to narrowing gaps in children's learning and development.
- Children benefit from a curriculum that focuses on language and communication. Pre-school children move around the outdoor space collecting natural materials to fill a bug hotel and to look for spiders. Staff extend children's learning about the natural world by introducing the word 'habitat' and prompting a discussion about the kind of habitats bugs like.
- Overall, children are excited to participate in adult-led group activities. They show good levels of self-control and follow staff instructions. However, the length of time some children spend in focused, adult-led, group activities results in them becoming restless and disengaged.
- Staff plan an activity to help children to learn about the human body. They use different resources to show children how blood travels around their bodies. When an unexpected hole appears in a bag, staff skilfully use this spontaneous

opportunity to redirect the activity and encourage children to problem solve. They then work out how to stop the water flowing out of the bag.

- Children's behaviour is good. They understand the setting's routines and expectations for their behaviour. For example, children come together for tidy-up time. Staff ask them to choose a superpower, such as 'unicorn power', before staff assign them an area of the room to tidy. They do this willingly and take pride in having the responsibility.
- Staff encourage children's independence, getting dressed for outdoor play and washing their hands for mealtimes. Children choose whether they want to have snack. Staff encourage them to serve themselves. They use tongs to get their snack and pour their own drinks from a jug, which contributes to their manual handling skills.
- Staff provide children with a homely setting. They make good use of the local community to provide children with opportunities beyond what they may ordinarily experience. For example, staff take children on a service bus to the local town to buy a cake. Furthermore, when children show an interest in, for instance, lemons, staff take them to the supermarket to buy lemons. This helps children to experience public transport and to buy food in shops.
- The manager goes out of her way to support staff mental health and well-being. She recognises when staff may need some extra support and ensures they receive this. The staff team comment they are happy in their work and feel supported.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good understanding of a range of indicators, which could suggest children are at risk of harm. They know who to report any concerns to. The manager has a strong ethos for monitoring children to make sure they are safe. Staff understand whistle-blowing procedures and what they should do if they are concerned about the behaviour of the manager or colleagues. Staff hold paediatric first-aid qualifications, which helps them to deal with accidents appropriately. Children play in a safe environment because staff complete daily checks of the inside and outside areas to identify hazards and reduce potential risks.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the organisation of adult-led group activities to maintain the children's engagement and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY277564
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10280034
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 11
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	73
Name of registered person	Gipsey Bridge Preschool Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903026
Telephone number	01205 280921
Date of previous inspection	6 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

Gipsey Bridge Preschool registered in 2004. It is located in the village of Gipsey Bridge, Lincolnshire. The pre-school employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, ten hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including two who hold level 6. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sharon Alleary

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 manager, deputy manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Staff and children 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 manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation together.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of written feedback from parents.

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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