

Inspection of Openwoodgate Pre-School

St Marks Church Hall, Openwoodgate, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0SD

Inspection date: 24 May 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 are eager to enter the pre-school and start their day. Staff happily greet families at the door and invite children to come and play. Children excitedly run into the pre-school, pleased to see their friends and staff. During circle time, staff introduce the available activities to children. This helps children to feel secure to make choices and access the activities comfortably and confidently throughout the day.

Staff support children to build on their existing knowledge. They read a familiar story about a little sunflower and discuss how to plant and care for sunflower seeds. Staff extend the activity by providing children with the opportunity to plant their own seeds. Children use their physical skills as they kneel and fill their plant pots with soil. Staff provide children with clear and simple instructions to help them to understand how to plant their seed in the soil. For example, staff tell children to make the seed cosy. Children pat down the soil on top of the seed and smile, proud of their achievement. Staff help children to recall previous events. They talk about children's home experiences of planting sunflower seeds that the staff provided for them to take home to grow.

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

- The manager and staff create a well-planned curriculum that is based on children's individual needs and abilities. They effectively incorporate children's interests to help engage children in play and learning. For example, children enjoy building with wooden bricks and shapes. Staff use this interest to support children's mathematical development and knowledge of shapes. They encourage children to consider how to make a circle. Older children enthusiastically tell staff that they need two semi-circles to make a circle.
- Children's growing independence is supported well by staff. For instance, during snack time, staff closely supervise children as they use knives to spread their choice of topping on their crackers. Children confidently pour their own drinks and use a spoon to serve themselves a portion of raisins.
- Staff work closely with parents and other settings that children attend. They regularly share information about what children know and can do and their next steps in development. This helps children to benefit from a consistent approach to their care and learning.
- Parents speak fondly of the pre-school and staff. They say that they do not want their children to ever leave. Parents appreciate the additional help that staff provide. For example, staff share strategies with parents and signpost them to other professionals. This helps parents to support children's learning and development at home.
- Staff provide children with many opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle. For

instance, they encourage children to regularly wash their hands, and provide nutritious meals and snacks. However, staff do not always support children's understanding of why a healthy lifestyle is important. For example, they do not make the most of handwashing routines and mealtimes to explain to children how this keeps them safe and healthy.

- Overall, children behave well. Staff use praise and acknowledge children's positive behaviour by presenting them with an award to display on the 'kind hands tree'. For example, staff award children for being thoughtful and helping others. Nevertheless, when children experience conflict or struggle to regulate their behaviour, staff do not always help them to recognise or understand their own and other people's feelings and emotions.
- The committee, manager, and staff team work together well. Committee members have clear roles and responsibilities, which supports the effective running of the pre-school. The manager has systems in place to support staff and help them to continually develop their knowledge and practice. For example, staff access training on the use of assessment tools. This helps staff to identify where children may need targeted support to help them to make progress in their physical, communication and language development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Committee members and all staff complete safeguarding training on how to identify and report concerns about the welfare of children. The manager and nominated individual have put in place robust recruitment procedures to confirm the suitability of all individuals working with children. Staff ensure that children's health needs, such as allergies and other conditions, are identified and met. Children's accidents are dealt with appropriately by staff, including the treatment of any injuries, completion of accident records and communication with parents. Staff are vigilant to the security of the premises and take steps to ensure that unauthorised visitors are unable to enter the pre-school.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- help staff to strengthen children's understanding of how and why it is important to lead a healthy lifestyle
- support children's emotional development to help them to identify and understand feelings and emotions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206834
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	10285769
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	24
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Openwoodgate Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904812
Telephone number	07776 320753
Date of previous inspection	18 October 2017

Information about this early years setting

Openwoodgate Pre-School registered in 1992 and is located in Belper, Derbyshire. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a level 2 qualification. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm and 12.15pm until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Mel Walker

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 setting.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to the nominated individual, the manager and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.

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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