

Inspection of Roborough Pre-School

Roborough Methodist Church, Bickleigh, PLYMOUTH PL6 7AG

Inspection date: 27 September 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 confidently enter the pre-school where cheerful staff greet them warmly. Children have formed positive relationships with staff, who are friendly, passionate and enthusiastic. Staff talk to parents about how their children are on arrival to ensure that they can support them throughout the day. Children feel safe and secure.

Staff plan the curriculum to keep children engaged in learning. They help children to recall past events. For example, children name and remember parts of their body, such as their elbows, knees and feet. Staff extend their knowledge, encouraging children to find their ankles. Staff know what they want children to learn and help to support their next steps.

Children make good progress from their starting points. They behave well and learn how to solve problems with support from staff. For instance, children work out how many 'ramps' they will need to make from the wooden bricks for three people.

Leaders use funding effectively to ensure a high ratio of staff, so they can provide additional help for children who need it. Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) well. They use clear, simple language, coupled with gestures and good eye contact to help children communicate.

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

- Staff help children to become independent. They encourage children to hang up their belongings and then self-register. Children begin to recognise their name. Once confident with this, staff change the font of their name, so they can recognise it in different formats.
- The environment is calm, where children are actively engaged in play. Staff help children to understand routines and changes of activities. For instance, to gain children's attention, staff gently shake a tambourine and say, 'One, two, three, look at me'. This encourages children to stop what they are doing and listen to what is being said. Children then confidently follow staff instructions.
- Children enjoy small-group times. They learn new songs and listen intently to stories that staff read. Staff talk to children about fiction and fact books, explaining the difference between them. However, some activities are too challenging for some children, particularly those with SEND. Although these children benefit from exposure to a wider vocabulary, such as through daily adult-led activities, staff teach them about letter sounds before they are developmentally ready. Some children do not fully understand.
- Staff engage in positive interactions with children. They encourage them to learn

new vocabulary and help them to remember what words mean. For example, they ask children if 'wider' is 'closer together' or 'further apart'. They support children to work out the answer by using wooden bricks.

- Staff liaise with many other professionals in the community to receive additional support for children. They also provide local schools with information about children's development prior to them moving on. However, although staff have tried to share information with other early years settings that children attend, this is not consistent to provide a two-way approach to their learning.
- Parents speak highly of the pre-school. They comment on how staff go 'above and beyond', are 'loving with warm attitudes' and 'treat every family personally'. Parents comment on the good communication through the 'daily diaries' and the online system, where they receive information about children's learning. Staff enable children to take books home to share with their family to support their early reading skills.
- Staff embrace children's uniqueness. They have created a display board where they showcase children's achievements. They use positive phrases to describe children, such as 'Excellent Explorers', 'Proud Performers', 'Compassionate Citizens' and 'Dynamic Designers'. Children have high levels of self-esteem and confidence.
- Children learn how to make predictions. As children play with toy cars, staff ask them whether the car will move faster going up the ramp or down it. Children make their prediction and then test their theory out.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager ensures staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. She tests their knowledge using quizzes and informs them about any child protection updates or new guidance. Staff know how to identify when a child's welfare is at risk of harm. They know who to share their concerns with to help protect children's safety. Staff take children out on trips in the local area. Children wear high-visibility jackets, so they can be easily seen by traffic. Staff encourage children to hold onto a rope while they walk and talk to them about road safety.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- adapt the curriculum during small-group times, with a particular focus on children's early reading and writing skills, to meet children's individual stages of development to help build on what they already know and can do.
- strengthen the communication with other settings children attend to provide a consistent approach to their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106204
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10307945
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	19
Number of children on roll	17
Name of registered person	Roborough Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517746
Telephone number	01752 773914
Date of previous inspection	20 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Roborough Pre-School opened in 1972. It operates from the Methodist Church hall in the village of Roborough. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff, including the manager. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, two staff hold a level 3 qualification and one staff member is unqualified. The pre-school opens term-time only, from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the pre-school manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the pre-school and discussed the early years foundation stage curriculum.
- 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 during a group activity.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed 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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