

Inspection of Exley Head Pre-school

Lees Methodist Church, Haworth Road, Keighley BD22 9DL

Inspection date:

27 September 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

The manager and staff provide a very nurturing and inclusive pre-school where children and families are at its heart. Consistent staff provide a wonderful welcome, nurturing care and a secure environment. Children enter pre-school eagerly and confidently post their individual name card in the box. They settle quickly, are happy and feel safe. Children are kind, take turns and behave well. They respond positively to the consistent boundaries that staff gently provide.

Staff provide plenty of uninterrupted time for children to play and explore. Children are confident and develop high levels of concentration. They make pictures using conkers and paint, and they delight in the patterns they make. Overall, staff have high expectations of children. They provide just enough support to help them succeed. Children display good recall skills as they enthusiastically sing songs and rhymes. Staff are ambitious for children. They teach children how to play traditional games such as 'The Farmer's in the Den'. Children wait patiently until it is their turn to be chosen.

Staff recognise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children who were born during this time. They ensure that any gaps in children's development are supported. Staff provide book bags for children to borrow. They include information to help parents support their child's early reading skills at home.

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

- Staff go above and beyond to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This is a real strength of the pre-school. Staff are swift to identify any concerns in children's development. They provide one-to-one support to help children develop new skills. Staff work closely with a range of other professionals and implement planned programmes of support. They undertake training to administer the important medication that children need.
- Children are interested in books and know how to use them. They concentrate well as they use the pictures as prompts to retell stories. Staff support children's literacy skills extremely well. They use very expressive voices that bring stories to life. Staff capture children's interest and leave spaces for them to join in. Children listen intently. They correctly predict what happens next when listening to the story 'Dear Zoo'. Children are imaginative and use ideas from stories in their play. They delight in striding around outdoors pretending to be 'giants'.
- Staff use seasonal themes to plan and sequence what they want children to learn. Children enthusiastically explore the sand, sticks, pine cones and dinosaurs. They describe what the dinosaurs are doing. Staff reinforce what children say. However, they do not consistently build on children's existing understanding of the world. For example, they do not help children to know the

names of the different dinosaurs or to understand that the sun dries the water pictures they paint outside.

- Parents speak highly of the pre-school and value the support they and their children receive. They are kept well informed about their children's learning through daily discussions and written records of learning. Parents describe how staff create a 'very welcoming atmosphere'. They are pleased with their children's progress. Parents state that 'staff genuinely care about the children and are really amazing'. Parents highly recommend the pre-school to others.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills well. They are swift to identify and act on any concerns regarding children's speech and language development. Staff repeat what children say and gently reinforce their language by using the correct pronunciation. Children speak confidently and describe how the water is 'dripping off the step'. Staff spontaneously sing rhyming songs. Children are interested in words that rhyme and show their understanding of words that rhyme with 'gone'.
- Children are highly motivated and physically active. They energetically push ride-on cars around the garden and delight as they roll down the slope. Children also climb competently on the climbing frame. They display good spatial awareness and develop good balance, coordination and control of their bodies. Staff provide encouragement as children practise their physical skills, and they help them to succeed. They ensure that children have plenty of space to move and daily opportunities to challenge their physical capabilities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are well trained in safeguarding and regularly update their knowledge. They understand the procedures to follow should they have concerns about the welfare of a child or the behaviour of a colleague. Staff retention is strong. The manager ensures that all staff are suitable. She reviews their suitability during supervisions. Staff provide effective early help to support vulnerable families. They ensure that no one can leave or enter the pre-school garden and building unannounced. Staff also help children to be safe during snack time. They follow the early years food choking hazards guidance when preparing food. The manager ensures that staff follow the clear procedures in place for the use of mobile phones.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen teaching to ensure that all staff consistently build on children's existing knowledge to further extend their understanding of the world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2649771
Local authority	Bradford
Inspection number	10301359
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Exley Head Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP525360
Telephone number	07932434885
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Exley Head Pre-school re-registered in a new building in 2021. The pre-school is situated in Cross Roads, Keighley. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, from 8.30am until 3pm, term time only. The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one who holds an appropriate level 5 qualification. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school supports children with SEND.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angela Sugden

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 and the inspector completed a learning walk together. The manager told the inspector about her intentions for children's learning and how the curriculum is planned for children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a planned activity with the manager. They discussed teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- Parents told the inspector, through face-to-face and telephone discussions, how their children's learning is supported, how staff keep them informed about their children's learning and how staff support families.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, the special educational needs coordinator, staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.

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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