

Inspection of Kirkham Pre-School Ltd

Methodist Church, Nelson Street, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2JP

Inspection date:

28 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 settle in extremely well as a result of the caring and cheerful staff team and effective care practices consistently implemented. Staff show high expectations of children's achievements. As a result, children very quickly become independent, confident and motivated learners who delight in exploring the large, free-flow environment and wide range of activities available. Overall, staff support children well in developing positive behaviours. Children are beginning to learn to manage their feelings and enjoy reminding their friends about the pre-school rules.

The carefully designed and informed curriculum means the activities, experiences and interactions from staff are ambitious and well matched to the needs of the children. Staff provide an array of resources and activities that promote children's large-muscle skills. Children use planks of wood to create a see-saw. They rock back and forth using excellent balancing skills. Later, they use their small muscles to operate spray bottles to wash away their chalk markings. Staff incorporate stories, songs and time for quality interactions, which successfully promotes children's communication and language skills. Children listen and join in with familiar songs.

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

- The curriculum is very well sequenced and continually builds on what children know and can do. The manager and staff fully understand the way in which children learn. They ensure that children have plenty of opportunities to learn, embed and practise their new skills and knowledge to ensure learning builds over time. Children make good progress.
- Overall, the manager ensures that the curriculum is well understood and implemented by staff. However, staff are less well informed of some areas of the curriculum. As a result, planning and interactions from staff do not always contribute to delivering the curriculum intent in order to precisely promote children's learning needs.
- Activities are carefully planned to provide children with exciting and stimulating opportunities to practise their skills. In turn, children show high levels of concentration and strong motivation to complete tasks. Children develop excellent attitudes to learning.
- Staff use positive reinforcement and consistent reminders to help children learn safe behaviours, such as using their 'walking feet' while inside. However, the curriculum for supporting children to build relationships is not fully understood by all staff. As a result, children are not always supported to learn to play cooperatively and take turns with others.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is excellent. The pre-school special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) is

entirely committed to ensuring that children with SEND have the very best start to their early education and that their needs are met. With the manager, the SENCo works tirelessly, through strong partnership working, to ensure that children's needs are well known and met .

- The professional development of staff is highly effective. The manager uses insight from performance management to determine training needs that best promote the needs of the children. As a result, children benefit from interactions from staff who are skilled, knowledgeable and confident.
- Children's good health is very well promoted. There is a strong focus on children being active, and staff teach them about the impact of exercise on their bodies. These messages are well understood, as children talk about needing to drink water after lots of physical play to help them cool down.
- Staff work closely with parents and value the benefit of establishing trusting relationships to further support children. Parents are provided with information about their children's progress, and staff value the information parents provide about their children's learning at home. This good two-way flow of information helps to ensure that children's needs are well known by all involved in their care and learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Effective risk assessment, consistently implemented by all staff, helps to ensure that children are kept safe and secure while at pre-school. Staff are well deployed to ensure that children are supervised at all times as they move throughout the environment and have free-flow access to the outdoor space. Staff teach children to take appropriate risks, supporting them to develop the skills to keep themselves safe. Staff are well versed in the pre-school safeguarding policy and procedure, including the mobile phone policy and the procedure for whistle-blowing. The designated safeguarding leads ensure that staff receive training and remain up to date about current safeguarding guidance.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- embed the curriculum intent more securely and consistently so that all staff have a firm and common understanding and what this means for their practice
- strengthen the curriculum to promote children's skills in managing their own feelings and behaviour.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297933
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10310645
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	30
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Kirkham Pre-School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910455
Telephone number	07751 504119
Date of previous inspection	24 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

Kirkham Pre-School Ltd registered in 2005 and located in Preston, Lancashire. The pre-school is open each weekday, from 9am to 3pm, term time only. In total, seven staff work at the pre-school, most of whom hold relevant qualifications, including the manager, who holds early years professional status. The pre-school nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

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 inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- 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 interactions between staff and children.
- Parents and grandparents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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