

Sacred Steps Preschool Playgroup

The Scout Hut, Browning Road, Wyken, COVENTRY, CV2 5HS



Inspection date	11 May 2017
Previous inspection date	18 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend in this good pre-school. Staff are welcoming and attentive to children's needs and interests, which helps them settle quickly into their chosen play activities.
- A committed and dedicated team manages the pre-school very well. The manager and staff are very committed to developing their practice even further by accessing regular training and increasing their qualifications. Safeguarding is given a high priority and children are kept safe and secure.
- All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning and development, given their different starting points. Children are well prepared for school or the next stage in their learning.
- The learning environment is well resourced and inviting both inside and outside. Children particularly enjoy the imaginatively planned outdoor space.
- Staff are caring and affectionate to the children. This allows children to make secure attachments and has a positive effect on their emotional development and confidence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently question children in a manner that allows them to think critically for themselves and build on their own ideas.
- Opportunities for children to increase their independence, for example, during snack time are sometimes limited.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the use of staff's teaching strategies to allow children greater opportunities to think critically for themselves
- make more use of opportunities for children to further develop their independence skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor play areas and the outdoor learning environment. He conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider/manager and the deputy of the pre-school. He spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection when appropriate.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment and planning documentation, the setting's risk assessment and safety records.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working within the pre-school, self-evaluation and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ben Hartley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team is committed and knowledgeable. This ensures that this is a high quality pre-school. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of safeguarding and how to keep children safe. Robust checks are in place to ensure that new staff are suitable. Further checks are undertaken on a consistent basis to ensure that the circumstances of current staff have not changed. Staff demonstrate their commitment to improve their qualifications, which has a positive effect on the overall quality of teaching. The manager reflects on the overall quality of the pre-school and demonstrates her ability to make changes that increase quality even further. Positive partnerships with parents have been developed. Parents are very complimentary about the pre-school. They believe it has a positive effect on their children's communication and mark-making skills in particular and that it helps prepare children well for school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff communicate effectively with children and are actively involved in their play. Staff allow children to make choices in their play and respond to children's interests. Staff make accurate assessments of children's learning and use the information to inform planning. The learning environment is engaging and imaginative, which immediately engages children. Children demonstrate their eagerness to learn and really enjoy creating, using the wide variety of art resources that is available to them. Children enjoy small-group times with their key person. These opportunities are used well by staff to encourage children to learn some basic phonics. This supports their development and increases their readiness for school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff form good relationships with children and their families. This helps them to understand children's needs and provide appropriate support for them. Children really enjoy the outdoor play area. They particularly enjoy playing in the water, using various funnels and guttering to really explore. Staff support children's play effectively and join in with their activities. Children enjoy playing a game that enables them to count consistently and then run quickly and skilfully. They are learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle through their daily experiences and the way the pre-school promotes healthy eating. Staff manage children's behaviour consistently and make their expectations clear.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in their learning. Staff give appropriate support to children and this helps them acquire key skills in their preparation for school or the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429883
Local authority	Coventry
Inspection number	1094931
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	Mary Margaret Pickering
Registered person unique reference number	RP513187
Date of previous inspection	18 March 2015
Telephone number	07958745649

Sacred Steps Preschool Playgroup registered in 2011. The setting employs five members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate qualification at level 2 or above, including one member of staff that holds a level 6 qualification and another that holds a qualification at level 5. The pre-school is open from 8.30am until 11.30am and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm, from Monday to Friday during term time only.

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