

St. John's Happy Hands Pre-school Playgroup

St. John's Church Hall, Leyland Lane, LEYLAND, PR25 1XB



Inspection date

13 March 2017

Previous inspection date

19 September 2013

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

- Staff are deployed effectively and work together well. They share ideas and effectively support each other throughout the day to meet each child's needs.
- Staff work hard to establish a good quality service. Parents speak highly of the information shared with them and of the care and fun activities provided for children.
- Staff have a very good understanding of children they care for and how they learn best. All children make consistently good progress.
- Staff are positive role models. They consistently promote the use of good manners and appropriate behaviour. Staff use praise effectively to motivate children during activities and to build their self-esteem.
- Self-evaluation is undertaken and clear targets for future development are identified.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not all skilled enough in using good questioning techniques. The questions they ask are not challenging enough to encourage children to think deeply and give a considered response.
- Staff do not always help children to understand how good hygiene practices contribute to their health.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance questioning skills to offer children more challenge to think, respond and share their own ideas
- give children the opportunity to learn more about how good hygiene practices contribute to their health.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Stephanie Davies

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager keeps herself and her staff up to date with the local authority's procedures to help to keep children safe. Staff understand the policies and procedures that are in place. They are knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of abuse. Regular risk assessments are completed to help minimise potential hazards. There are robust systems in place for supervision and observation of staff's practice. These help to continually maintain good standards of teaching. The manager works closely with the local authority to help evaluate and develop their service. Links with local schools and other professionals help to provide continuity in children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff invite parents to share information about their children's achievements on a regular basis. This means staff have a good understanding of children's current interests. They use this information to encourage children to try new experiences and to motivate them in their learning. The well-planned environment enables children to learn through play and exploration. There are spaces for children to be quiet and calm. Here children enjoy sitting and chatting to staff and friends. Children independently choose from a broad range of high-quality resources that stimulates their creativity and imagination. They are motivated to learn and eager to invite others to join in their play. Children enjoy singing number rhymes and staff encourage them to use their fingers to count.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where children and parents feel at ease. They treat children with kindness and respect and are always on hand to offer reassurance, encouragement and support. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe. For example, as they line up to go outside, they follow simple safety rules, such as waiting quietly and not pushing each other. Snacktime is a relaxed and social experience for the children. They are given choices and encouraged to take responsibility in simple tasks, such as selecting their own cereal and clearing away their dishes. Staff understand the importance of fresh air and exercise. Children thoroughly enjoy playing outside and practise their physical skills with growing confidence and a good awareness of how to play safely. For example, they negotiate safe pathways with wheeled toys, moving around the play area while being mindful of the needs of other children who are playing nearby.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy confident learners. They make consistently good rates of progress in relation to their starting points. Children are prepared well for the next stages of their education, including their move to school. Children are keen to take on a challenge and are motivated and eager to join in. They show willingness and persistence as they have a go and keep on trying.

Setting details

Unique reference number	309470
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1063971
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	25
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	St. John's Happy Hands Pre-school Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904851
Date of previous inspection	19 September 2013
Telephone number	07890 726 230

St John's Happy Hands Pre-school Playgroup was registered in 1980. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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