

Upton Methodist Church Pre-School

Dorchester Road, Upton, Poole, Dorset, BH16 5NN



Inspection date	16 October 2015
Previous inspection date	8 December 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 are keen and enthusiastic learners. They explore and investigate the wide range of activities that staff prepare for them, and have many opportunities to make choices in their learning during free-play sessions.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff extend children's learning through very good use of discussion, which increases children's language skills and understanding.
- Managers and staff establish very good relationships with parents and others involved in children's care and learning. This helps to ensure children receive consistent and targeted support, which reflects their individual needs.
- Changes in procedures have been effective in increasing children's safety. Managers and staff use self-evaluation well to identify weaknesses and drive improvement.
- Children form strong bonds with staff, which helps them feel safe, settle well and their behaviour is good. They participate in many community events and activities that promote their understanding of the wider world, helping them to learn to value and respect diversity.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children who speak languages other than English at home are not always provided with enough opportunities to hear or use these languages within the pre-school.
- Although staff monitor individual children's progress and development effectively, they do not always reflect well enough on the progress of groups of children, to help them evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum in meeting their needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to hear and speak other languages that are spoken at home
- build on monitoring and assessment procedures to enable better monitoring of groups of children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector completed a joint observation and held meetings at an appropriate time with the manager and nominated person.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documents, and sampled welfare records.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children, and reviewed the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection, and engaged in discussions with staff and children at appropriate times.

Inspector

Samantha Powis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff demonstrate a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They are fully aware of possible indicators and the reporting procedures in the event of a child protection concern. Robust recruitment, induction and supervision procedures help to keep children safe. Effective systems for monitoring individual children's progress help staff to identify any gaps in children's learning, so they can provide additional support to narrow these. Staff are well qualified and attend regular training to increase their skills. For example, training on using tools to improve children's physical skills has had a positive impact on children's learning experiences. Managers and staff work closely with a wide range of professionals, including the local authority, other childcare professionals and staff from local schools, to help them to make continuous improvements to the provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are fully engaged in children's play, getting down to children's level to play alongside them. They have a good understanding of children's individual stages of development. They observe, assess and track children's progress, which enable them to plan well for their next steps in learning. This means that staff are able to provide appropriate levels of challenge to extend children's learning and help them all to make good progress. Staff have high expectations of children and provide good levels of support and encouragement. This gives children confidence to 'have a go'. For example, younger children help to prepare fruit for snack time. Staff provide good support for children's early writing skills, preparing them well for the next stage in their learning. Children gain strength and control in their fingers through fun activities. For example, they practise using scissors by snipping at straws. They giggle with delight as the straw gets smaller, all the while increasing strength, coordination and control.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children feel a strong sense of belonging, which helps them to feel emotionally secure and settle well. For example, they bring in photographs of their holidays and talk about their families and friends. They are polite and thoughtful. Staff provide nutritious snacks for children, which helps them to make healthy choices. Children help to complete risk assessments, which increases their awareness of safety. They put on high visibility jackets and tick off their check lists. Children's physical skills are supported well. For example, they use the balance bikes along a pathway which they have made from the wood blocks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are increasingly confident and independent due to the good support they receive from staff, which makes them feel proud of their achievements. Children develop the key skills they will need to move on successfully to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	153445
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1001271
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	61
Name of provider	Upton Methodist Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 December 2014
Telephone number	01202 631915 or 01202 625417

Upton Methodist Church Pre-School has been established for approximately 40 years and operates from the Methodist Church Hall in Upton, in Poole, Dorset. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday during term time only, from 9am until 11.30am, with afternoon sessions on a Monday and Friday from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. In addition, a lunch club operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12pm to 1pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff who hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one member of staff with a qualification at level 2.

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