

Avon Small Saints Pre-School



C/o All Saints VA C of E Primary School, High Street, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 9PJ

Inspection date 23 February 2015
Previous inspection date 11 March 2014

	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The management committee have not implemented a robust procedure to ensure the ongoing suitability of all staff or any person who has regular contact with children. This does not fully ensure children's safety.
- The staff team do not always enhance children's learning by questioning children effectively to continually extend on their communication, language and learning skills.
- The management committee have not addressed a previous recommendation to ensure a wide range of resources is easily available to children to create an interesting and exciting environment. This does not maximise children's learning.
- Staff do not consistently maximise children's independence during creative activities by giving them opportunities to use scissors and pencil sharpeners independently.
- Self-evaluation does not take account of the views of children, parents and staff. Consequently, opportunities to further progress the provision are missed.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy, well behaved, and confident. This is because all staff know them well and ensure their individual needs are met.
- The staff team has established secure partnerships with the local school and other providers. This helps prepare children for their next stage in learning.
- Children enjoy the healthy, fresh nutritious snacks that the pre-school provides. This helps to support children's understanding of healthy eating.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- implement a procedure that ensures staff are aware that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting)
- ensure children make consistently good progress in their language, communication and learning by ensuring staff follow questions through with children and extend on what children say during play
- improve the learning environment and create a more stimulating, well-resourced indoor and outdoor play area, to teach and enable children to develop their own ideas and make links in their learning.

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

- extend children's creative skills by encouraging them to make choices and carry out age-appropriate tasks, for example, by using scissors and sharpening their own pencils independently
- improve self-evaluation practice, so that it is rigorous and takes into account the views of parents, children and staff, to clearly identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and outdoor play area.
- The inspector held discussions with the supervisor, registered person and spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at the children's learning records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff, safeguarding children procedures, a selection of policies and procedures, and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the supervisor.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Julie Swann

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. All staff complete assessments and observations of children during play. As a result, they are able to support children's learning adequately. Children have games and activities that support their early mathematical skills, such as 'compare bears'. Staff use these resources to plan activities, which incorporate problem-solving, shape, number and colour recognition effectively. However, teaching requires improvement because there are too few resources made readily accessible to create truly inspiring and meaningful learning. For example, a mixing activity in the outdoor 'mud kitchen' and children's current interests in a 'vet surgery' in the role-play area, became quickly ineffective. This was due to the lack of resources to engage children's interest further or to extend this play in other ways. In addition, questions asked by staff during children's play do not build on what children have already said to enhance their vocabulary. This means children do not make the best possible progress.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Overall, the key-person system helps to ensure that all children have a 'special person' to turn to should they be upset or in need of a cuddle. This helps children to settle. Staff liaise with parents during settling-in visits and parents are suitably involved in their children's learning. For example, parents complete 'all about me' forms before children attend. Staff use this information as children's starting points to support their learning. Children enjoy regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. This helps to support children's physical development. Staff generally give children opportunities to be independent, such as putting on their own coats. However, opportunities to extend on children's independence during creative activities are not maximised. For example, the staff used scissors and sharpened pencils for children when they could do this themselves.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

All members of staff have attended safeguarding training, which means they know what action to take if they are concerned about a child. Additionally, the manager understands her role in notifying Ofsted regarding safeguarding matters. However, the pre-school safeguarding procedures are not secure because the committee have failed to ensure that a procedure is in place to check the ongoing suitability of the staff team. This potentially compromises children's safety. Staff complete a satisfactory induction programme that includes a probationary period. The manager monitors the quality of teaching and ensures that all staff have ample opportunities for further training. However, self-evaluation lacks rigour and fails to take into account the views of staff, parents and children to promote even higher levels of achievement for all children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY338057
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	971663
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Avon Small Saints Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2014
Telephone number	01980 671681

Avon Small Saints Pre-School opened in 1987 and is managed by a voluntary committee. The pre-school opens on weekdays during school term time from 9am to 3.30pm. The pre-school employs 6 staff. Of these, 5 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. One staff member is currently undertaking a scheme to gain appropriate qualifications. The pre-school receives support from the local authority.

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