

Noah's Ark Pre School (Wells)

c/o St Joseph and St Teresa Catholic Primary School, Lovers Walk, Wells, Somerset,
BA5 2QL



Inspection date

7 June 2018

Previous inspection date

20 July 2017

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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

- Leaders and managers demonstrate a strong commitment to improvement. They have addressed previous issues from the last inspection successfully. For example, planning considers children's interests and next steps effectively. Staff challenge children well and they make good progress from their unique starting points.
- Leaders and managers use effective evaluation to reflect and develop useful action plans to enhance the setting. For example, they have identified the need to use tracking of different groups of children more efficiently and to gain further information from parents about children's achievements at home, to improve outcomes for children.
- Children have a good sense of community. They feel emotionally secure and staff value them as individuals. Children thrive in responsibilities and become actively involved in challenging themselves. For example, they add their ideas of what they could do better to the 'we will try' tree.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although leaders have strategies in place to engage with other early years providers that children attend, they do not use them consistently to enable a continuous approach to children's learning and development.
- The manager does not consistently provide new members of staff with guidance on routines and activities, for example, to ensure children are involved in tasks they are capable of doing for themselves, to support them to become more independent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further strategies to engage all other early years providers that children attend, to provide a consistent approach to children's care, learning and development
- provide new members of staff with guidance on routines and activities to support children's developing independence even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children as they played inside and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the registered individual, manager, staff, parents and children at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed documentation, including the pre-school's self-evaluation, staff's suitability records and children's assessment records.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders, managers and staff have good understanding of their responsibilities to report any concerns about a child or an adult to appropriate agencies. There are effective arrangements to recruit suitably vetted staff and to keep Ofsted informed of changes to the committee. Staff have good opportunities to develop their professional skills, in particular to support children's emotional well-being and their communication and language skills. Managers track children's individual progress efficiently, identifying gaps in their learning and acting promptly to reduce these. There are strong links with the school to support a smooth transition for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use information gathered from parents as children start at the pre-school effectively to prepare initial activities successfully. They keep parents well informed of their children's progress. Staff plan an exciting range of experiences across all areas of learning. Children develop good physical skills, for example, they negotiate space well on the tricycles and adjust their speed to avoid collisions. Staff question children effectively to help them plan their imaginary journey and extend their ideas. Children are confident communicators. They keenly share their news and respond well to questions asked by staff and each other.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide an inviting learning environment, which is well organised with a broad range of resources. Children enter happily and engage quickly in activities, making choices about their play. Staff provide good encouragement and praise, for example, when children try new skills, such as pedalling the tricycle, building high levels of self-esteem. Children behave well and play nicely together. Children have good opportunities to be outside and active. For example, they develop good physical skills as they engage in forestry skills and gardening activities. They carry out research using electronic devices and learn how to care for living things. Children feel secure in familiar daily routines and follow these well. For instance, they know to wash their hands before they eat, fetch their lunchbox from the fridge and sit at the table without guidance.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and develop the skills they need for their future learning and eventual move to school. Children demonstrate good early writing skills. For example, older children make good attempts to form letters when they write their name and make comparisons between letters, such as recognising 'M' from a food outlet sign. Children count confidently and begin to recognise numbers to label groups, such as how many boys and girls attend the session.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143014
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1110239
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Noahs Ark (Wells) Pre-school Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP523088
Date of previous inspection	20 July 2017
Telephone number	07773 688943

Noah's Ark Pre School (Wells) registered in 1992. It operates from the grounds of St Joseph's and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Wells, Somerset. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 3.15pm, during term time only. The pre-school is run by a committee of parents and receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs a manager and two staff, two of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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