

Noahs Ark Pre School

Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4TX



Inspection date	8 July 2019
Previous inspection date	8 January 2019

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of 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

- The pre-school's management team demonstrates a strong commitment towards improvement. The team has worked hard to address the actions and recommendations from the last inspection. For example, children under the age of two years now have their own room where they feel happy, safe and secure. The manager states that the creation of the baby room has been a 'labour of love'.
- Partnerships with parents are successful. Staff are committed to working together with them to ensure continuity of care and learning. Parents are kept well informed through written and daily verbal communication.
- Staff know their key children very well. They talk confidently about where children are in their learning and development and what they need to do to support their continuing progress. Staff are confident to carry through their findings into planning.
- Staff pay good attention to planning for outdoor activities, helping to ensure that those children who learn best from being outside are able to do so. Since the last inspection, the garden has been totally redesigned, offering children an excellent outdoor space where they can explore and investigate.
- The thoughtfully planned playrooms effectively support children to engage in purposeful play. Children benefit from a wide range of toys and resources to support their good progress in learning.
- Staff work with parents to help make children's move from home to the pre-school a smooth and positive experience. Children are happy and settled in this welcoming and friendly pre-school.
- Some staff do not always adapt activities well enough to further challenge children's learning and development to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more closely on adapting activities to consistently offer children sufficient challenge to further support their learning and developmental progress.

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 at appropriate times throughout the inspection and completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager and also discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and other records.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Jacqueline Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The management team demonstrates a strong commitment to the pre-school. The team actively supports the staff in their work. Staff are enthusiastic, motivated and work well as a team. Managers and staff reflect on the service that they provide. They continually assess what they are doing to improve the provision for children. For example, staff constantly review how the play and learning environment is set up to ensure that it meets children's needs. Staff supervision is regular and focused. It is an effective aid to monitoring, supporting and improving staff practice. Staff are encouraged in their professional development. Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff have a good awareness of their responsibility to protect the welfare of children. They know how to report concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good overall. Staff plan and provide a varied range of activities to support children's learning. Activities are rooted in children's interests. Staff support children in purposeful play and learning. Children benefit from interesting resources that promote their natural instincts to discover and explore. For example, staff provide children with notebooks, clipboards and laminated pictures of mini-beasts. Children are excited when they find a moth and look at it with interest. Staff encourage children to make drawings of what they see. Staff promote children's speech and language skills effectively, including those who speak English as an additional language. They engage children in conversation and give them time to consider questions before answering.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Each child has a named person to take responsibility for ensuring that their care and learning needs are met. Staff are caring towards the children. They develop close emotional attachments. Children confidently seek out staff to share in their play. Staff support children effectively to develop a positive sense of themselves. Children are encouraged to embrace their similarities and differences and develop positive attitudes towards each other. Children behave well and respond positively to staff's high expectations. Children develop good friendships with each other, play well together and have regard for each other's needs and feelings. Staff value and praise children's good behaviour and individual efforts, supporting children's confidence and self-esteem effectively.

Outcomes for children are good

The manager and staff monitor children's learning and development. Any gaps are quickly identified and managed, supporting all children to make good progress. Overall, children develop the key skills needed to be ready for school. They understand that print carries meaning. Some children are beginning to recognise their written name. They enjoy looking at books with adults. Children manage their own self-care relevant to their age. They talk confidently about eating healthily.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY220790
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10092245
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Noah's Ark Pre School (Swanton Morley) Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908445
Date of previous inspection	8 January 2019
Telephone number	01362 627975

Noahs Ark Pre School registered in 2002 and operates from a self-contained area in the community centre at Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley. It serves both the military and the local civilian community. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 9am to 3pm on Monday to Thursday and from 9am to 1pm on Friday.

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