

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Community Playgroup

1a Highlands Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4PS



Inspection date	30 October 2018
Previous inspection date	15 January 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- The manager is motivated and has ambitious plans for the setting. Rigorous self-evaluation drives the setting forward. The manager regularly seeks the views of staff, parents and the committee to further improve the quality of the service.
- The key-person system is effective. Staff know each child exceptionally well. The nurturing environment supports children to develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff talk to parents about children's home life, development and interests. This helps to ensure that planning closely follows children's interests and children become fully engaged in their learning.
- Children behave exceptionally well. Staff use a wide range of positive strategies to help children understand their emotions and how to behave. Children thrive in the calm atmosphere at the setting and develop exceptional skills for learning.
- The special educational needs coordinator is excellent. She engages exceptionally well with wider partnership agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children in her care.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Parents comment about the excellent relationships with staff. Staff use effective methods to share information with parents and support children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently provide children with sufficient challenge to support them to make rapid progress in their learning.
- Staff do not consistently give children a reason to count or use mathematical language during everyday activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with greater levels of challenge so that they make rapid progress in their learning
- consider ways to support children's mathematical experiences, in particular during everyday activities and play.

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 completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to some staff, children, committee members and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Rebecca Papaspyridis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Regular training and robust policies ensure that all staff have a good understanding of how to ensure children's welfare. The manager has implemented effective management systems to supervise staff and ensure that each child's individual needs are met. Professional development is extensive. Staff are provided with rich opportunities to follow their interest in attending further training. The manager closely monitors the progress of different groups of children to target any gaps in development. Funding for disadvantaged children is effectively targeted and monitored. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure children are well supervised and can freely move between inside and outdoors.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their knowledge to plan effective and immersive activities in response to children's interests. Staff skilfully engage children's natural curiosity through effective use of thought-provoking resources. For example, children are invited to discuss which magic key will open a door to the fairy house. Children are provided equally rich opportunities to learn outside. They demonstrate good levels of engagement in their chosen activity. Staff regularly exchange information with parents about their child's development. Parents speak enthusiastically about waiting for the latest information on the progress of their child.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children develop incredibly strong and secure attachments with all members of staff. The secure attachments support children to develop as confident, independent learners within the environment. Staff have highly effective partnerships with other settings, which ensure children receive the best continuity of care. Children are exceptionally emotionally well prepared for the transition to primary school. Transition programmes are carefully planned for individual children, and staff dedicate additional time to aid this process. Children demonstrate excellent hygiene practices and confidently meet their own self-care needs. Children are encouraged to choose healthy food options and are given excellent opportunities to be involved in physical exercise.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children with special educational needs are exceptionally well supported to make progress. Children learn to be independent as they wash their hands and faces at meal and snack times. They develop literacy skills as they listen to stories. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, such as school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303489
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	10072787
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Vicarage Lodge Preschool Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP525626
Date of previous inspection	15 January 2016
Telephone number	01928 500004

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Community Playgroup registered in 1965. It opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until midday and 12.45pm to 3.45pm. A lunch club operates between midday and 12.45pm. The setting employs six members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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