

Two Jays Playgroup

Sure Start North Children's Centre, Cairns Way, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE3 2SN



Inspection date

16 January 2015

Previous inspection date

29 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff observe children regularly to understand their level of achievement and use this information well to shape learning experiences for each child. This supports children in making good progress in their learning and development.
- Good quality information is shared between staff and parents when children start attending the playgroup. This supports children well and provides continuity in their emotional and physical well-being.
- The manager and staff take account of the views of both parents and children when deciding what could be improved at the playgroup.
- Children follow good hygiene routines and enjoy healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, which promotes their good health.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Group time is not always organised effectively. Younger children who are new to the playgroup find it difficult to settle and adjust to the new routine.
- Opportunities for children to have their own ideas and find new ways to do things during creative activities are not fully maximised.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reflect on the organisation of group time to ensure younger children, who are new to the playgroup, are helped to settle and become familiar with new routines and experiences
- extend creative activities by providing further opportunities for children to express their own ideas and ways of doing things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all parts of the playgroup accessed by children, including the outdoor environment.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed the manager's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning activities in the main room and outdoor environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a meeting with the manager of the setting and looked at and discussed a range of policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide a wide variety of interesting activities well matched to children's current age and stage of development. They gain a good range of skills, including early writing and reading, preparing them well for school. The quality of teaching is consistently good, as a result, children of all age groups and abilities make good progress. Staff support children well when they explore and discover new things with their hands, such as coloured ice cubes. Good questioning techniques promote children's language and communication well by encouraging them to describe what is happening as the ice begins to melt. Staff make sure resources are relevant to children's interests. They set up exciting areas, linked to popular children's films and allow them to enjoy uninterrupted time to play and explore. However, occasionally staff do not maximise opportunities for children to explore and find their own way of doing things. For example, during creative activities, staff do not always allow children to paint their own hands and explore how to make handprints themselves.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children show good levels of confidence and develop positive relationships with staff. They enjoy a cuddle to warm up after playing outdoors in the cold weather. Staff are responsive and support children, when they become upset during their first few weeks of attending. However, on some occasions, during group activities, the emotional needs of children, new to the playgroup, are not as well supported as they could be. Group size at this time is too big and the musical activities chosen are too loud, making it difficult for some children to settle and adjust to the new routine. Children have good opportunities to be active and engage in physical play outdoors. They take risks as they ride their bicycles over the lid of the sand pit and show awareness of safety when they manoeuvre wheelbarrows around the play space. Good use is made of the outdoor area for children to grow vegetables, developing their knowledge in living a healthy lifestyle.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager and her staff team safeguard children well. They ensure all areas are risk assessed and are free from hazards. The manager has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and monitors the educational programmes well. This ensures activities help children to make progress. Regular meetings take place with the staff team to review the quality of provision and discuss children's assessment information. This enables staff to identify where support may be needed, securing the correct intervention. Staff benefit from regular supervision and are supported well to improve their already good practice. They access training from professionals in the attached children's centre, which leads to improvements to practice and children's achievements. Parents benefit from regular opportunities to meet with staff to discuss their child's progress and ways of helping to support their learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY399466
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	860065
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	The Two Jays Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	29 January 2010
Telephone number	01912134100

Two Jays Playgroup was re-registered in 2009. It operates from two playrooms in North Moor Children's Centre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and is managed by a committee. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup is open Monday and Thursday, from 12 noon until 3pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am until 12 noon in term time only. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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