

Bees Knees Playgroup

Dunkirk Village Hall, London Road, Dunkirk, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9LF



Inspection date

21 January 2015

Previous inspection date

12 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		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 provider has not informed Ofsted of changes to the individuals on the management committee. As a result, Ofsted has not been provided with information needed to determine the suitability of all committee members within the required time.
- The self-evaluation process does not fully take into account the views of the committee, parents and children when deciding on the improvements to be made to enhance the outcomes for the children.
- The provider assesses the progress of individual children but does not have an effective system to monitor the achievements of different groups of children. This means staff are not able to easily determine areas of learning where further support is needed to help all children make good progress.

It has the following strengths

- Staff provide interesting learning experiences that motivate the children into becoming active learners, for example, exploring different textures through ice and jelly.
- Overall, children progress well in their learning and development because staff provide opportunities for them to follow their interests and consolidate their skills and learning.
- Children follow good hygiene routines. They enjoy healthy snacks and have opportunities to learn about healthy eating by growing vegetables in the garden.
- Children behave well. Staff are positive role models and consistently use the same methods to encourage children's understanding of sharing and good behaviour.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that suitability checks, including enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks, are completed on new committee members and that Ofsted is notified within the required time.

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

- strengthen the self-evaluation process by involving the committee, parents and children to identify areas of strength and areas of development to drive ongoing improvement
- develop further systems for assessment to more precisely monitor the progress of different groups of children to promptly identify any gaps in achievement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and the quality of staff's interactions with the children inside and outdoors.
- The inspector listened to the views of a selection of parents.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and undertook a joint observation.
- The inspector examined documentation, including a representative sample of children's records, accident records and policies.

Inspector

Maxine Ansell

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide an interesting range of activities, indoors and outdoors, to promote children's learning and development across all areas of learning. The play environment has low-level resources, encouraging the children's independence and choice-making abilities. This supports their skills for future learning. Staff are skilled and use planning and assessment to reflect all children's individual interests and meet their next steps in learning. However, monitoring arrangements do not extend to tracking the rates of progress of groups of children to gather a precise picture of how to target learning support. The staff have good relationships with parents and regularly offer ideas for home learning during discussions and through contact books. Staff extend children's communication skills by using a variety of language throughout the day, including mathematical vocabulary and descriptive words. For example, they introduce words like 'squashy' and 'sticky' when the children excitedly explore jelly.

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

The breach of the statutory requirements in relation to checking the suitability of committee members indicates a weakness in safeguarding arrangements. However, to date, this has not had an impact on the children's safety or well-being as committee members are never left alone with children. The staff support children's language and assist those with speech delays through the use sign language. This enables children to develop their language and be understood. There is a strong key-person system in place. The key person is aware of the children's academic development and progress. Through observations and information from parents, they develop a picture of the children's personalities and care needs. This allows staff to comfort any unsettled children in a way that meets their individual needs. Staff have developed effective links with local schools and childminders, ensuring continuity and a flow of information about individual children.

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

There have been a number of changes to the committee that forms the registered body. However, arrangements to ensure that Ofsted is notified are not fully effective. This is a breach of a legal requirement. Systems to recruit childcare staff have recently been improved by the manager and are robust. There are appropriate procedures to identify, and respond to, concerns about the welfare of any children and these are understood by all staff. The manager conducts regular supervision meetings to discuss staff's individual performance. This helps to ensure that there is consistency across staff practice. The manager has systems to evaluate what is working well, for example, reviewing the children's records to ensure they individually make good progress. However, there are no effective systems to review what needs to be improved to drive the practice forward.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY427901
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	823353
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Bees Knees Childcare Centre Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 September 2011
Telephone number	07986 762120

Bees Knees Playgroup registered at the current premises in 2011. It is a committee run group operating from Dunkirk Village Hall, Faversham, Kent. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The playgroup is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm, term-time only. There are four members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least National Vocational Qualification at level 3. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four.

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