

Shaw Ridge Playgroup

Shaw Ridge School, Ridge Green, Shaw, SWINDON, SN5 5PU



Inspection date	22 January 2015
Previous inspection date	26 May 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

- The children settle quickly and play confidently because staff provide a friendly welcome.
- The children enjoy daily outdoor play, which supports a healthy lifestyle.
- The staff work together well as a team. They demonstrate a firm commitment to sustaining continuous improvement through self-evaluation and monitoring.
- The staff establish constructive partnerships with parents and they promote continuity of learning by sharing information about children's development.
- The staff have a secure understanding of safeguarding issues and the appropriate action to take to support children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The staff do not maximise the opportunities for children to explore and express themselves through a wide range of media.
- The staff do not get the most out of the group times, for example, by using the show-and-tell time for children to learn about their colours and sounds.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more opportunities for children to explore and express themselves through a wide range of media
- develop group times further, for example, by using the show-and-tell time for children to learn about their colours and sounds.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing and how staff interacted with them.
- The inspector spoke to staff, the manager and the children at appropriate times.
- The inspector sampled the relevant documents.
- The inspector observed practice with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views.

Inspector

Karen Prager

Inspection findings

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

Staff include parents in the initial assessment of their children and get to know children well. They provide enjoyable learning experiences, based on children's interests. As a result, children are actively engaged in purposeful and worthwhile activities throughout. Ongoing planning and assessment for the children's development means that children progress well and are well prepared for their move to school. Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and develop. The quality of teaching is good overall and children develop the key skills required for their next steps in learning. For example, staff take steps to extend children's thinking when they build a ramp and observe how far the different cars roll. However staff do not always use group times effectively to maximise children's learning. For example, by using the show and tell time to help children think about colours and initial sounds of the objects they have brought in.

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

Children settle well, showing that they feel secure. Staff instil good behaviour through clear boundaries. As a result children cooperate well with their friends, learning to share toys and wait for their turn. They move around the room freely choosing what they would like to play with from the accessible resources. Children benefit from free access to a broad range of toys and experiences. However the provision for children to express themselves through a wide range of creative activities is not well developed. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. Children play energetically outside. They develop independence when they put their coats on. Children learn why they wash their hands before snack and are keen to tell staff when they have done this. Staff talk to children about using tools safely and children learn to stand back when their friends are using a saw.

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

The staff team is well-established. They have a secure understanding of all requirements and a high regard for keeping children safe. All staff and committee have attended training, which means they are able to identify concerns and take prompt action if needed. Self-evaluation takes into account the views of staff, parents and children. Staff seek advice from other professionals and attend external training regularly. Staff work well together and share their ideas regularly, focussing on areas for improvement. For example, they recognised the need to strengthen provision for mathematics outdoors and have expanded these resources recently. Partnerships with parents are well developed. Staff conduct home visits and share children's ongoing development, which promotes continuity of children's learning very well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY403826
Local authority	Swindon
Inspection number	831268
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Shaw Ridge Playgroup
Date of previous inspection	26 May 2010
Telephone number	07712713369

Shaw Ridge Playgroup first opened in 1984 and re-located to this site at the end of 2009. It is situated in a room in the community centre suite in Shaw Ridge Primary School, West Swindon, in Wiltshire. Shaw Ridge Pre-School is registered on the Early Years Register. There are currently 25 children on roll. Children have direct access to an outdoor play area. The pre-school opens during school terms from 8.50am until 2.50am on Monday to Thursday and 8.50 until 11.50 on Fridays. There are three members of staff who work with the children; all hold early years qualifications.

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