

Upton St Leonards Playgroup

10 Bondend Road, Upton St. Leonards, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL4 8AG



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

26 January 2015

7 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Children progress well in all areas of learning and development. This success is because the staff are knowledgeable about the children, particularly those for whom they take special responsibility.
- Staff have made good progress in improving the provision since the last inspection. They now help children behave safely when using equipment such as the climbing frame. This has helped children develop socially and improved their behaviour.
- Children develop strong attachments with their special person and the other staff. They readily go to them for comfort when parents leave. Staff have a caring approach towards the children, are good role models and meet children's care needs well.
- The committee oversees robust safety procedures. Management and staff maintain a safe and secure environment for the children to play safely. Staff are knowledgeable about the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection concerns. All staff have current training in first aid.
- Since the last inspection, the leadership team has worked hard to drive improvement. Regular evaluations of the provision result in a detailed action plan to improve the playgroup.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Not all staff have very high expectations of children, particularly at mealtimes, and some do things for children that they could manage for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- take every opportunity to encourage children's personal independence and ability to take on suitable responsibilities particularly at mealtimes, such as involving them in the preparation of snacks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all areas of the pre-school.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers of the provision, spoke to the staff about their understanding of the pre-school's policies and procedures and about the progress of children.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and from information included in the pre-school's own parent survey.
- The inspector checked the evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, and discussed evaluation methods and the improvement plan.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, the safeguarding policy and procedures, and planning documentation.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

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

Staff teaching methods are of a consistently good standard. Staff support children well in their learning and development. Through detailed observations, accurate assessments and regular planning staff meet children's individual interests and learning needs well. Children enjoy their play and choose activities eagerly for themselves. They play together happily; for instance, pretending they are in bed ill, while another child reads a book to them. Children gain an understanding about the world around them. They enjoy blowing bubbles and mixing colouring in water. Staff encourage children to discuss the changes, teaching them to be observant. Children review their activities as a group, which helps to develop their confidence in speaking in front of others. Staff take regular opportunities to develop children's early mathematical skills by asking skilled questions such as, 'Is it light or heavy?' and 'Why do the scales not balance?' Staff prepare children well for school.

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

Children move around the play environment confidently. Staff make resources readily available, encouraging children as independent learners. Children enjoy being able to access the outside play space easily. Children remember how to keep themselves safe when they play. For example, they take great delight using spray containers to paint fabric to see what happens, using the materials safely. Such activities develop their coordination. Children wander happily between inside and outside as they develop their play. They know they need to wear their coats to go outside. Children use good personal hygiene routines and wash their hands before eating. They sit well at meal times, but staff do not always expect them to do small tasks, such as pouring their own drinks or be involved in preparing the snack, to further prepare them for the move to school. Children are well behaved. They recall the pre-school rules confidently. They quickly help tidy up.

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

The committee has robust staff appointment procedures so all staff are checked as suitable to work with children. The staff team works well together effectively driving continuous improvement of the pre-school. Management's evaluations of the provision focus on staff performance to help improve teaching practice. Staff undertake pertinent training and use this training to help improve teaching methods to hasten children's progress. Staff have close links with other early years settings. They share good practice and details about children who attend more than one provision, to aid continuity of care and education. Partnerships with parents are good. Parents benefit from regular opportunities to share information about their children's progress at home. Staff keep parents updated on children's experiences and progress. Parents speak highly of the staff and the care provided.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101748
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	962713
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	62
Name of provider	Upton St Leonards Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2014
Telephone number	07833 973122

Upton St Leonard's Playgroup started in 1966 and registered with Ofsted in 2001 on the Early Years Register. The playgroup is run by a committee of parent on a voluntary basis. Children use two halls and an enclosed outside area. The adjacent playing field is used as an additional play area. The playgroup is open each weekday during school term time. Sessions run on Mondays and Fridays from 9.15am to 2.15pm. Sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays are from 9.15am to 12.15pm and from 12.30pm to 3pm. Sessions on Thursdays are from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The playgroup is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The playgroup employs nine staff, of whom six hold appropriate childcare qualifications at either level 2 or 3.

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