

Ash Preschool Playgroup

Ash Church of England Primary School, Main Street, Ash, Somerset, TA12 6NS



Inspection date	29 January 2015
Previous inspection date	21 June 2011

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

- Parents attend regular meetings with their child's key person and receive good written information every term on their children's next stages of learning. This helps them to work in partnership and enables parents to support their children's development at home.
- Children develop a good understanding of healthy practices. They start the day with exercises, have plenty to drink and take care of their personal hygiene.
- Staff support children well in gaining independence, communicating appropriately and building positive relationships. This prepares them well for their eventual move to school.
- Staff deploy themselves effectively to enable children to make good use of the whole premise and use a wide range of resources. This helps to meet children's individual learning needs.
- Staff provide a welcoming environment, where children feel secure. This has a significant benefit to children's learning and development because they are confident to explore and take part in activities.
- The manager works directly with the children and staff. This enables her to supervise the quality of teaching and support staff in sharing effective practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not help older children fully in recognising risks and thinking of ways to keep themselves safe.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's understanding of how to make different colours.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support children further in understanding risks and thinking of solutions as they play
- provide more opportunities for children to experiment with colour.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an adult-led activity with manager.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the premises.
- The inspector took account of the pre-school's self-evaluation and parents' survey, and spoke to some of the parents, staff and children present on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including information for parents, policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress from their starting points because staff use their observations effectively to plan for children's ongoing learning and development. Children gain a positive attitude to learning because staff enable them to initiate ideas. Staff then follow children's lead and overall extend and challenge their development. For example, children made fire engines out of construction resources and used them in their game. Staff gave support and took children to the art trolley where they selected coloured plastic wrapping to represent fire. In addition, staff skilfully used the opportunity to teach children the correct way to use scissors. Staff encourage children to make predictions, test their ideas and solve problems through trial and error.

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

The small staff team get to know the children and their families really well. As a result, children are happy and those new to the setting soon settle. Children enjoy having responsibilities, such as being the helpers for the day. They proudly set the tables and washed up after snack, for example. Children behave well and gain a positive awareness of people's differences. Staff know that some children prefer to learn outdoors and ensure they have daily opportunities. For example, children matched the numerals of their bicycle to the parking space. They used water and brushes to draw pictures and linked sounds to letters as they wrote their name. Staff are consistent in reminding children how to keep themselves safe, such as not running when the rain makes the surface slippery. However, this means older children do not consider risks for themselves.

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

The provider has a good understanding of their responsibilities and meets all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager monitors children's development and ensures staff complete the required progress check for two-year-old children. Along with the special educational needs coordinator, the manager ensures that children receive any additional support to narrow any gaps in their learning. All staff attend safeguarding training and they have a good knowledge of the setting's procedures to protect children from harm. All documentation required for the safe management of the provision is well-maintained. Staff evaluate their practice daily, which includes seeking children's opinions on the activities and resources. They are currently looking at a new system to record children's development to enable parents to have even greater involvement. In addition, through training on 'letters and sounds' staff are implementing use of more story sacks and ` sign language. This is to promote children's communication skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348845
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	835234
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Ash Pre-School Playgroup (Sallywags) Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 June 2011
Telephone number	0779 096 2255

Ash Pre-school (Sallywags) registered in 1991 and moved to its current premises in 2007. It operates from a purpose built temporary building situated in the grounds of Ash Church of England Primary School, in the village of Ash, near Martock, Somerset. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The pre-school opens five days a week, from 9am until 3.15pm, term time only. There is a lunch club available every day allowing for flexibility of morning or afternoon sessions, with or without lunch. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff members who work with the children. They all hold relevant early years qualifications; two have a level 4 qualification, two have level 3 qualifications and the other has a level 2 qualification.

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