

Withycombe Raleigh Playgroup

Parish Church Hall, Withycombe Village Road, EXMOUTH, Devon, EX8 3AE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

9 February 2015

5 April 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		Requires improvement	3
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:

- Staff do not manage children's behaviour consistently to teach children what is expected of them. Consequently, children sometimes behave inappropriately.
- Staff do not always focus sufficiently on the developmental needs of younger children when planning activities. Some activities are too challenging for two-year-olds, so they do not make good progress.
- Committee members do not have a full understanding of the correct process to follow to inform Ofsted of changes to registered individuals. Consequently, Ofsted does not have up-to-date information about who is responsible for the pre-school.
- Staff do not always extend older children's thinking skills through the use of frequent open questions, such as 'how?' and 'why?'

It has the following strengths

- Staff routinely introduce mathematical language into children's play and daily routines to support their understanding of counting, shape and measurement.
- Children develop their independence through regular opportunities to participate in self-care tasks, such as chopping fruit for snack and pouring their own drinks.
- Staff have a sound understanding of safeguarding matters, including how to refer concerns to external professionals, to promote the well-being of all children.
- Management and staff are developing systems for evaluating the provision and identify suitable areas for improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop staff's knowledge to ensure they use consistent behaviour management strategies to help children understand their expectations and to learn appropriate social skills
- ensure that planned activities provide appropriate challenge for younger children to help them make good progress in their learning
- ensure that all committee members receive induction training to help them understand their roles and responsibilities, with particular regard to procedures to inform Ofsted of changes.

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

- develop the frequency and quality of questioning to provide consistent opportunities to extend older children's thinking skills.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- inform Ofsted of the following: the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of any partner, director, senior officer or other member of the governing body (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector observed children playing indoors and outdoors, the safety of the premises and staff's strategies to manage children's behaviour.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held meetings with the manager and provider of the provision.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff make regular observations of children to monitor their progress. They provide an appropriate range of activities to promote children's development across all areas of learning. However, not all staff focus sufficiently on the developmental needs of younger children during planned learning opportunities to provide suitable challenge. Consequently, although older children make good progress, this is not the same for younger children. Staff provide tweezers for children to use during activities, which effectively develops their physical skills. Overall, staff use discussions well to promote children's thinking skills. This helps to develop their communication and language in preparation for school. However, at times, they do not extend children's thinking skills by using good quality questioning to help children think for themselves and solve problems. Links with parents and other settings are developing well to provide consistent learning opportunities for children in different environments and situations.

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

The environment is safe and welcoming. Children enjoy playing in the well-resourced outside area. Staff establish warm relationships with children and teach them appropriate social skills to help them form friendships. At times, staff help children to manage their feelings well. However, they do not consistently implement behaviour management strategies. For example, when pre-school children disagreed over a toy, a member of staff spoke only to the child who instigated the matter and not the child who retaliated. Consequently, staff do not make their expectations clear to all children to support their personal, social and emotional development. Staff teach children healthy and safe practices to promote their well-being. Consequently, children understand the need to wash their hands before eating and know to listen to staff so they can follow instructions.

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

Overall, the management have a reasonable understanding of their responsibilities to promote children's health and welfare. They implement suitable recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure the suitability of staff and committee members. New committee members have completed, or are in the process of completing, Disclosure and Barring Service checks. However, the provider has not followed the correct processes to inform Ofsted of changes to the committee, as required. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register. On this occasion, Ofsted does not intend to take further action. Management use regular supervision meetings and appraisals to support staff and further their professional development. For instance, a member of staff commented how a recent course has improved her knowledge of behaviour management for two-year-olds. This has enabled her to consider their stage of development when helping them to manage their feelings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106069
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	845890
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Withycombe Raleigh Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	5 April 2011
Telephone number	07890 784092

Withycombe Raleigh Playgroup opened in 1965. It operates from the parish church hall in Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth. The playgroup is open from 9am to 3pm on Mondays and Fridays, from 9am to 1pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from 9am to 12 noon on Thursdays, during term time. A holiday club runs on a Tuesday and Thursday during the school summer holiday only. There are eight members of staff, six of whom hold an early years qualification to levels 3 or 5. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

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