

Charlton and District Playgroup



St. Thomas Church & Community Hall,, Charlton, ANDOVER, Hampshire, SP10 4AN

Inspection date 11 February 2015
Previous inspection date 3 December 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching across the playgroup is outstanding. Staff provide an excellent range of high-quality learning experiences inside and out. As a result, children are keen to learn and eager to explore their environment.
- The strategies staff use to check children's progress in their learning and development ensure that children make exceptional progress from their starting abilities on entry.
- The playgroup staff follow robust procedures which give the highest priority to the safety, welfare and well-being of children, who are kept safe and secure.
- Partnerships with parents and carers are a key strength of the playgroup's provision and are significant in ensuring staff meet children's needs extremely well.
- The committee and management drive improvements very successfully. Targeted professional development for staff is highly focused on identified areas for continued improvement.
- The playgroup staff work exceptionally well together. They deploy themselves effectively, ensuring that they use every opportunity to enrich and extend the learning opportunities available to children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to see and use their literacy skills by extending the use of labelling, such as of children's work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning and development, both inside and outside, and looked at the range of toys, resources and equipment available for children's use.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held talks with the manager and chairperson and discussed the methods of appointing staff; planning for their professional development; how children's progress is assessed and how the provision is evaluated, as well as looking at relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to the children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents and carers during the inspection and took into account their views.

Inspector

Sharon Palmer

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their strong knowledge and understanding of how children learn and expertise in teaching to provide children with rich and varied experiences. Staff skilfully extend children's learning during their play. For example, when children create a puppet theatre, staff provide them with extra resources that spark children's imaginations so play develops. Children's language development is exceptionally well promoted because staff have introduced daily language groups. These help children to not only develop their confidence in speaking, but teaches them cooperation and how to take turns, so they are well prepared for school. However, staff miss chances to model writing to children, such as by labelling their work, to show its practical use. All staff work in close partnership with parents and outside professionals to support and promote each child's learning needs through a shared approach. Assessment arrangements are precise and sharply focused on the individual child so staff meet children's personal learning needs.

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

Exceptional arrangements to care for children support their well-being. Children who are new to the playgroup settle quickly because staff have devised excellent arrangements to support them. For example, children attend stay-and-play settling-in sessions and the playgroup requests a wealth of information from parents, which they provide. This means staff get to know the children and their families extremely well. The staff team provide a happy, secure environment. Children thrive on uninterrupted play so they complete activities and gain a sense of achievement. Children are independent and prepare their own snacks. Staff use clear and consistent behaviour management techniques, so children's behaviour is excellent.

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

The playgroup's leadership is inspirational. Highly effective arrangements for the recruitment and induction of new staff and checks on the performance of existing staff result in very high quality teaching. Staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children, which they regularly review during staff meetings. Consistent communication between the staff allows them to develop robust strategies to support children who may need additional help. Thorough analysis of assessment information means that any potential learning needs are quickly recognised and met. Robust procedures for regular evaluation mean that the management team has a clear vision of desired improvements, such as the establishment of a wild garden in order to enhance children's understanding of the natural world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511329
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	836957
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Charlton & District Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2009
Telephone number	07979 841318

Charlton and District Playgroup opened in 1978 and registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register. It operates from two rooms in the church of St Thomas in the village of Charlton and is a registered charity. The playgroup is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The playgroup opens for five weekdays during school terms. Sessions run from 9am until 12 noon daily, with an optional lunch club until 12.30pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, sessions run until 3pm. The playgroup's committee employs 10 staff, who all hold recognised early years qualifications.

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