

# Brown Edge Playgroup

Sandy Lane Centre, Sandy Lane, Brown Edge, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST6 8QJ



## Inspection date

10 February 2015

## Previous inspection date

15 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is variable. Staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements. Consequently, children do not always make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Staff do not consistently plan sufficiently challenging activities to engage and motivate children to further develop children's knowledge and skills.
- Staff do not fully promote children's social skills as staff do not consistently adhere to the playgroup's behaviour policy.
- Staff do not provide sufficient opportunities for children to freely access and independently explore different media and materials.

### It has the following strengths

- Staff interact with children in a warm and caring manner. As a result, children form strong attachments, which promote their emotional well-being effectively.
- Staff undertake regular risk assessments to ensure that the premises indoors and outside are safe. Every outing is risk assessed by staff prior to it taking place.
- Daily access to a well resourced outdoor play area enhances children's enjoyment at the playgroup and provides them with regular fresh air and exercise.
- Children's communication and language skills are promoted well. Staff provide frequent opportunities for children to practise their speaking skills.
- Children learn to manage their own personal care needs, for example, through good hygiene routines, such as hand washing.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- improve the quality of teaching by ensuring staff use information from observations and assessments to support and extend children's learning experiences that precisely match each child's needs, challenge and extend them and support them to make good progress
- ensure training and development opportunities for staff focus more closely on improving weaknesses in the quality of teaching to ensure that children learn, develop and are kept healthy
- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner by ensuring that staff consistently adhere to the playgroup's behaviour policy.

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

- provide a wider range of media and materials for children to freely access and independently explore, to enable them to represent their own ideas and experience a sense of achievement.

### **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)
- ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspector looked at a selection of children's assessment files and discussed their progress with the key person.
- The inspector checked for evidence of suitability and qualifications of the staff working with the children.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke to staff and children indoors and outside.
- The inspector held meetings throughout the inspection with the manager and key persons, and looked at and discussed a range of policies and procedures. She carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the playgroup's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents and carers spoken to on the day.

## **Inspector**

Karen Laycock

## Inspection findings

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

Staff complete observations on children to assess and monitor their progress. However, they do not always use this information effectively to plan children's future learning. Staff do not always take account of the next steps of all children involved in adult-led activities. For example, children enjoy counting and organising teddies during a mathematical activity. Some of the children answer confidently and clearly and know what is expected of them. However, staff do not use these opportunities to extend children's learning. As a result, activities are not always sufficiently challenging and so children make satisfactory rather than good progress in their learning. Children's creative development is not fully supported as craft activities are very prescribed. For example, children are provided with a stencil, red pencil, orange and yellow tissue paper and glue. Staff then instruct them on what to do, imposing their own ideas about how the fire engine should look. This means that children are prevented from being able to make choices, explore resources and celebrate their own achievements. Staff provide resources to meet children's interests. However, they do not always manage boys 'superhero' play effectively to avoid repetitious play. Staff focus well on the prime areas of learning. This equips children with some of the key skills they need to develop and learn effectively, in readiness for school.

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

Children enjoy circle time where they are encouraged to recall recent events, such as visits to the local police and ambulance stations. Children confidently talk about how to keep themselves safe as they discuss what the policeman has told them about strangers. These discussions promote children's confidence and their communication and thinking skills. Children are happy in the setting and confidently select the resources they want to play with. Staff generally support children to play and learn together, and to develop skills to manage conflicts that occur during these times. As a result, most children behave appropriately for their age. However, there are occasional lapses when some staff do not consistently apply the rules of the playgroup. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and drinks, which support a healthy diet.

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

Staff and managers have a good understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. They are aware of the signs of abuse and know what to do if they have concerns about a child's well-being. The manager works alongside staff and has identified areas where improvements can be made. However, the playgroup's self-evaluation has not led to targeted improvements for children's learning. As a result, teaching quality requires improvement. The manager and staff meet regularly with parents to discuss each child's progress. At these individual meetings, staff and parents discuss and agree their child's targets for the next term. This means that parents are suitably supported to help continue their child's learning at home. Parents comment, 'my child loves it here', 'we are always kept up-to-date with what they are doing' and 'we couldn't wish for better staff'.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	218104
<b>Local authority</b>	Staffordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1003335
<b>Type of provision</b>	
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	34
<b>Name of provider</b>	Brown Edge Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	15 September 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01782 505246

Brown Edge Playgroup was registered in 1976. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. All of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, including three at level 2, two at level 3 and one at level 6. The playgroup opens, from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are, from 9.15am until 3.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 9.15am until 12.15pm on Monday and Friday. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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