

Murston Playschool

Murston Playgroup, Murston Hall, Church Road, Murston, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent,
ME10 3RU



Inspection date

25 February 2015

Previous inspection date

24 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- The children form good relationships with their key person. They regularly return to them for comfort and support and to show them their achievements.
- Staff provide children with a good selection of toys and natural resources. They move freely around choosing their own activities and where to play.
- Staff use good methods to teach children early writing skills. The older children are competent in pencil control and in writing their own names.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and develop. Recent training has enhanced their skills in the observation and assessment of children's progress. This has had a positive impact on the children who enjoy more challenges in their play.
- The staff give children's safety and well-being a high priority. They teach children to recognise hazards as they play and to use equipment and tools safely.
- All staff are effective at safeguarding children. They are competent in implementing the provider's good policies and procedures to keep children safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The children generally play well together. However, staff do not always skilfully use activities to help the younger children learn to recognise and manage their own feelings.
- Staff do not always fully meet the different learning needs of all the children during adult-led activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities for the younger children to talk about their own feelings in order to help them recognise and manage how they are feeling
- further develop the learning aims for planned adult-led activities to skilfully engage all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interaction between staff and children indoors and outside.
- The inspector sampled a variety of paperwork including safeguarding policy and procedures, the risk assessments and accident records.
- The inspector talked to the provider, staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector and the provider carried out a short joint observation during the inspection.

Inspector

Linda Coccia

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy the range of activities available. All children are competent in recalling numbers and some can identify number shapes. This is because staff use good number language with children. They initiate their own activities to play together in small groups or engage in adult-led activities. However, staff are sometimes unable to fully meet children's different learning needs during adult-led activities. Children enjoy their play in the outdoor area. They learn to listen to different sounds in the environment and can make their own sounds with outdoor wooden instruments and natural objects. The staff use good strategies to help children to be ready for school. They support children during their school visits and invite local teachers to meet the children. Children engage in lots of school role play and read books about starting school and are therefore, emotionally prepared for school.

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

Children show they feel emotionally safe at the playschool because they are confident enough to talk to visitors. Even the newest children show confidence in exploring the environment because they have free play sessions. Parents are engaged in children's learning by helping staff complete 'All about me' information sheets and taking part in regular reviews of their children's progress. Children take home Murston, the group panda, to learn to look after him. Children learn the playschool rules for sharing toys and taking turns. However, staff do not always provide enough opportunities for the youngest children to learn about their feelings and how to manage them. Overall, children learn to respect each others differences. Children have a healthy lifestyle at the setting because they learn about healthy eating and engage in lots of physical play activities indoors and outside.

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

The provider has an experienced staff team who have been at the playschool many years. She promotes their professional development well by providing training opportunities which are easily accessible through the local authority. Staff are able to choose the training they undertake. The playschool has strong links with the local children's centre and is able to access services to support children's development when needed. The provider has worked closely with external professionals to identify areas for improvement. She obtains the views of staff, parents and children. Any suggestions for changes are included in her action plan to improve outcomes for the children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418926
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	993061
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Verity Ann Gage
Date of previous inspection	24 September 2014
Telephone number	01795 428 701

Murston Playschool re-registered in 2010 with the present owner. It operates from a church hall in Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent. It is open each weekday, term time only, from 9am to 12 noon. On Wednesdays there is a lunch club operating between 12 noon and 1pm. The playschool provides funded early education for two, three and four-year olds. There are seven members of staff, including the provider, who hold recognised childcare qualifications at National Vocational Qualification level 2 and above.

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