

East Coker Playgroup

East Coker Sports Pavillion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9LQ



Inspection date

27 February 2015

Previous inspection date

8 March 2010

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| 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

- Staff make regular observations and assessment of the children's learning. They know them well and plan activities and experiences that excite and challenge them. Consequently, all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points.
- The manager and her staff successfully reflect on the playgroup's effectiveness. They accurately identify their strengths and areas for development, which include the views of parents and children.
- Staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibility to protect children. They are clear and robust procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's welfare, which helps to safeguard children.
- Staff are warm and caring in their responses to children. As a result, children are happy, behave well and feel secure.
- The quality of teaching is good. Children arrive excited and busily explore and investigate the wide range of activities and resources. Consequently, children are motivated and confident learners.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always manage group times effectively to support children to concentrate and listen.
- Staff do not make best use of the outside area as a learning environment in the winter months, to fully support children who enjoy playing outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop group time activities further to fully promote children's listening and concentration
- provide more opportunities for children to be outside, particularly through the winter months.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching and learning indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff, parents and children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, self-evaluation and evidence of staff suitability.

Inspector

Michelle Tuck

Inspection findings

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

Accurate assessment processes allow staff to plan well for children's next steps in learning and provide challenge through their interaction. For example, children learn about the life cycle of the chicken. They ask questions when looking at books, to find out about the meaning of words, such as 'grazing'. They count and solve problems in routines, for example, how many cups they need at snack time. Staff use circle-time activities for children to share news and ideas. However, some children lose interest and become distracted because staff do not consistently engage them in the activity. Children's communication skills are well developed. Staff support them with their speech, which enables them to talk confidently with one another during their play. For example, during the inspection, children thoroughly enjoyed role play. They talked on the telephone, pretended to go shopping and had a picnic on the carpet. Teaching is of a consistently high quality, which prepares children well for the next stage of their learning.

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

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment, where children arrive excitedly and settle quickly into their play. Staff share warm relationships with the children, providing them with lots of praise for their achievements. This boosts children's self-esteem and gives them confidence. Children follow good hygiene routines, independently using the bathroom, washing their hands and preparing their snacks. Staff plan for children's daily physical development outside. However, they do not plan for this as well during the winter months.

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

The manager and staff understand their responsibility to keep children safe and carry out daily risk assessments to monitor the learning environment. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensures that adults working with the children are suitable. Evaluation of the provision encourages the staff team talk on a daily basis, to highlight any issues that arise and decide on the action to take. The manager monitors staff practice through observation and encourages them to identify their training needs. This means they attend training that focuses on children's specific learning needs to provide positive support. There are strong partnerships with parents. Parents speak very highly of the staff and the quality of the provision. Staff keep them informed about their child's progress through daily communication and sharing of progress records. The playgroup has good links with the local school, other early providers and agencies. This helps to provide consistency and ensures that children who have additional needs receive the necessary support to enable them to make good progress.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 507986 |
| Local authority | Somerset |
| Inspection number | 846842 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 2 - 8 |
| Total number of places | 28 |
| Number of children on roll | 36 |
| Name of provider | East Coker Playgroup Committee |
| Date of previous inspection | 8 March 2010 |
| Telephone number | 07798812540 |

East Coker Playgroup registered in 2001, but has been established since 1973. It operates from the sports pavilion in the village of East Coker, near Yeovil, Somerset. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday, term time only from 9am to 12pm with a lunch club from 12pm to 1pm and afternoon sessions from 1pm to 3pm. The playgroup is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are nine members of staff employed. One member of staff holds Qualified Teacher Status and another has Early Years Professional Status. Six members of staff are qualified to level 3 and one member of staff to level 2.

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