

Holyrood Playgroup

Zembard Lane, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1JL



Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

6 July 2009

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 have a secure knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They use their knowledge of children's individual learning needs and the stimulating learning environment to help children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff encourage children to lead healthy lifestyles. Children play outside daily and enjoy the physical challenges of running on the grass and balancing on the climbing equipment. Children enjoy eating healthy snacks. They grow their own fruit and vegetables in the enclosed outdoor area and eat these when ripe.
- Staff are very caring and provide a warm welcome for children, helping them to settle quickly.
- Staff build strong relationships with parents. They work closely with them to promote children's well-being and overall development. Parents receive a range of information and build strong links with their child's key person, enabling good information sharing to support children's developing needs.
- The provider and staff work well together as a team. They have a positive and reflective approach to their work, which enables them to adapt the educational programmes to meet children's needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are few opportunities outdoors for children to develop their early literacy skills, and see and use pictures, signs and words in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to use pictures, signs and words in their outdoor play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at the children's assessment records and staff planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Petra Morgan

Inspection findings

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

Children are happy and confident in the friendly playgroup. Staff interact and support children well in the stimulating learning environment. This results in children who are keen to explore the range of interesting activities on offer. Staff use their observations of children's achievements to identify their next steps of development effectively. This helps them to plan activities that build on children's developing abilities and prepare them for the next stage of learning, such as going to school. Staff engage children and capture their attention well through craft activities, songs, rhymes and the telling of stories. Children demonstrate their listening skills by joining in with the actions and using their fingers to count. Parents provide information when children first start which helps staff to get to know and understand children's previous learning and interests. Parents comment that their children are very happy at the playgroup.

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

Children develop strong bonds with their key person. This helps them feel safe, settled and secure. Children behave very well. Staff encourage this through calm voices, gentle explanations and positive reinforcement of wanted behaviour. They remind children sensitively of the simple rules, such as remembering to walk indoors, which helps to keep them safe. Children develop independence and self-help skills as they help to tidy up toys, pour their own drinks and wash their hands. Staff resource the indoor environment well; the low shelving units enable children to choose equipment so they make decisions confidently and enjoy their play.

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

The provider shows a good awareness of her responsibility to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. There are effective systems for staff recruitment and vetting to determine their suitability to work with children. All staff have childcare qualifications and update their knowledge by attending training to target children's learning and development, for example, the characteristics of effective learning. This supports staff to promote children's learning to a good standard. Staff have a clear understanding of the safeguarding procedures to follow if a concern arises. The provider regularly monitors children's progress and identifies any gaps in learning. Close partnership working with other services ensures they can support children with specific needs. Staff share information with other settings children attend, which promotes continuity in learning and care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142951
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	846595
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	Holyrood Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2009
Telephone number	07980 032187

Holyrood Playgroup registered at its current premises in 2000. They operate from a building within its own grounds in the town of Chard, Somerset. The group receives the government funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The group is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 2.30pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12 noon and Thursdays from 9am to 12.45pm. The playgroup employs four members of staff, all of whom hold level 3 qualifications.

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