

Christ Church School Playgroup

Christ Church C of E Primary School, Derwent Road, Lancaster, LA1 3ES



Inspection date

4 March 2015

Previous inspection date

6 December 2011

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

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff are vigilant, motivational, calm and sensitive, providing an inclusive environment where activities meet the needs of each individual child.
- The management and the staff work as a strong team with the same vision and values, which is to ensure children and families receive quality care and education at all times.
- Children are safeguarded and well protected. Staff are well trained and effectively implement policies, procedures and risk assessments to ensure children are able to play in a safe and well-managed environment.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Good arrangements are in place to keep them well informed of their children's learning. Parents are encouraged to share and support their child's learning at home.
- Staff create a bright, interesting and stimulating environment, where children are eager to develop their own ideas and creativity skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are more opportunities to promote children's independence further, such as at snack time and mealtimes.
- Some areas where children play outdoors, do not wholly foster their growing awareness that print carries meaning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's growing independence, for example, by making the most of opportunities to involve them in tasks during snack times and mealtimes, for example, by collecting and clearing away their own plates, cups and utensils
- enhance the opportunities for children to further develop their awareness that print carries meaning, for example, by including more signs, labels and numbers in all of the outdoor areas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, discussed aspects of policy and practice with the staff and talked with the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the qualifications of staff and checked the suitability of all managers and committee members.
- The inspector held a discussion and conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including children's files and assessments, relevant policies and procedures and the playgroup's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector held discussions with parents and carers, taking their views into account.

Inspector

Janice Caryl

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress. This is because staff provide a broad range of exciting activities that interest children and keep them stimulated. Children enjoy playing with the pirate ship and sorting out where the figures go. Staff are skilled at questioning children to extend their learning. Questions, such as, 'What do you think the pirate can see?' help children to think more deeply. Children are given time to respond and make suggestions, enhancing this thought process. Staff model appropriate language, supporting all children, including those who speak English as an additional language to learn new words. Children are responsive, showing their enjoyment as they take part in all activities. They enjoy technology, taking delight in using cameras as they take pictures of the adults and their friends. Staff regularly and accurately observe and assess children helping to identify gaps in their learning and development. Children enjoy writing their name, reading books and developing their number, matching and counting skills. They become independent learners, gaining the necessary skills in preparation for school.

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

Staff form very good bonds with children and families as they are effectively supported to settle in. This promote children's physical and emotional well-being. Children soon establish good relationships with the staff and their peers. Routines are flexible, enabling children to become confident and self-assured as they make choices. Staff successfully teach children to adopt good hygiene practices. Healthy eating is encouraged as staff support children to choose healthier options at lunchtime. Children occasionally help and serve themselves. However, they are not always given opportunities to take responsibility for collecting and clearing away their own crockery and utensils. Staff make good use of the outdoor learning environment. Children take pleasure in exploring, investigating and taking part in discovery play. Staff teach children to manage risk as they climb the tree and balance on the wooden blocks. However, some areas do not include labels, signs, numbers or letters, to promote further, children's awareness that print carries meaning.

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

The management team understand their roles and responsibilities in meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager has a clear understanding of the areas needed to develop the playgroup and has development plans in place. All staff are keen to develop their skills and improve their practice. The manager supports staff effectively by providing regular supervision sessions. Children's progress and teaching practice is discussed, helping to maintain quality. Regular staff meetings include items, such as safeguarding, further helping to keep children safe. The manager carefully monitors children's learning and development and staff share this progress with parents and carers. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the planning by sharing experiences from home. Good links with the local school help to ensure continuity of care when children move.

Setting details

Unique reference number	309271
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	864913
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Christ Church School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 December 2011
Telephone number	07779 660 581

Christ Church School Playgroup was registered in 1993. The playgroup employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 11.30 and 12.30pm until 3pm. There is an optional session from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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