

Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup

Village Hill, Oakhill, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 5AN



Inspection date

6 March 2015

Previous inspection date

20 May 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The leadership team do not ensure that all records relating to staff suitability, including the Disclosure and Barring Services checks, and children's records are available for inspection.
- The leadership team do not consistently monitor the quality of teaching. Consequently, teaching is variable and not all children have rich learning experiences that enable them to make good progress in their learning.
- Staff do not have an appropriate programme of regular supervision and training to improve their practice and qualifications.
- The leadership team do not use self-evaluation effectively to monitor daily practice, identify areas for development and improve outcomes for children.

It has the following strengths

- Some older children enjoy well-planned activities with the manager, who promotes their speaking, listening and early reading skills well.
- Staff have good relationships with parents and share a range of information with them about the pre-school and children's learning. This contributes to children feeling safe and secure.
- Children develop good physical skills and learn about staying healthy. There are plenty of resources to explore and space for them to be active and enjoy outside play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that records relating to children and staff are easily accessible and available for inspection, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks for all staff
- improve the quality of teaching to ensure all children enjoy challenging learning experiences that meet their individual needs
- improve the monitoring and supervision of staff to address the weaknesses in practice and promote good quality teaching and learning for all children.

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

- strengthen self-evaluation processes so that they focus on improving children's achievements and staff practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and activities inside and outside.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager throughout the morning.
- The inspector spoke to parents, members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, children's records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jennifer Cutler

Inspection findings

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

Children have easy access to a suitable range of activities and resources, which help them develop confidence and independence as they make choices in their play. They enjoy playing inside and outside. The sand area is a great favourite with all ages, who share buckets and spades, and learn to get on well with one another. Pre-school children enjoyed a story with the manager and enthusiastically pretended to be the wolf blowing down the pigs' houses. They recognised different animal sounds and successfully learned some letters and their sounds. Although these activities help children prepare for school, not all staff promote children's learning effectively. Staff do not consistently join in children's play, encourage their communication skills or extend their learning. Staff monitor and collect information about children's achievements. However, staff do not always use what they know to provide children with the support they need or a good level of challenge.

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

Children are happy and settled, and have good relationships with staff. Children mostly enjoy what they are doing, learn to behave well and develop independence. They explore the outside area and use their imagination. For example, they used binoculars to 'spy on' the grass-cutting vehicle on the recreation field. However, there are times when activities are mundane because staff do not motivate children to develop their play further. Meal times are well-organised social occasions. Children learn about simple hygiene routines and social skills to develop good manners. Staff help children resolve any disputes quickly. Children respond well to gentle reminders about how to share.

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

The leadership team have some understanding of their responsibility to promote children's safety and well-being. The environment is safe and secure. However, staff and children's records are not stored on the premises and the manager was unable to provide evidence of all staff's suitability to work with children. Staff have sufficient details on the premises to safeguard their welfare. All staff have attended safeguarding training. They have a suitable understanding of child-protection procedures and know how to act appropriately to protect children. The manager has some processes for monitoring the quality of teaching and evaluating daily practice. However, these are not sufficiently rigorous to address weaknesses in practice or inform a staff training programme. Furthermore, the manager's evaluation does not focus on improving children's achievements and devising strategies to enable them to make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142969
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	841568
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2009
Telephone number	07870 672996

Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup registered in 1972 and operates in Oakhill, Somerset. The playgroup is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings during term time. Sessions run from 9.30am to 1pm. The playgroup employs five members of staff, of these, one has Early Years Professional Status and two hold qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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