

Blacklands Playgroup

Elim Church, Elphinstone Avenue, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2DJ



Inspection date

20 March 2015

Previous inspection date

10 February 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

- Staff provide a good range of stimulating and challenging activities indoors that engage and interest children.
- Staff actively promote children's learning as they play. They ask effective questions that extend children's thinking and communication skills.
- Staff form good relationships with children. As a result, children show a strong sense of belonging, confidence and security.
- Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and how to recognise signs that may give rise to concerns.
- The owner and staff team monitor and evaluate their practices competently. They attend training that improve their skills and enable them to make changes that benefit children. For example, they have increased their awareness of how to promote children's literacy skills effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff form positive relationships with parents. However, they are not always successful in encouraging all parents to share information about their children and to continue learning at home.
- Children do not always have access to a wide choice of resources in the outdoor area.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with all parents by encouraging them to be further involved in their children's learning and assessments
- increase opportunities for children to be able to consistently make choices of activities and resources in the outdoor area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the owner/manager.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector looked at the setting's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

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

Staff get to know their key children well. They observe and assess children's learning systematically. Staff identify learning priorities competently and provide activities that meet children's individual needs. Children concentrate well at activities and engage in play with a purpose. They play happily together and work out how to solve problems. Staff interact effectively with children as they play and give suggestions to extend their learning further. Children develop good communication skills as they talk with staff about what they are doing. They learn about simple calculation as they cut up and divide dough into pieces. Children count confidently with adult encouragement and support. They show good levels of independence as they explore and investigate. Children make good progress in the skills they need for their future learning.

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

Staff promote children's health effectively. Children adopt good personal hygiene practices and eat healthy snacks. They enjoy plenty of exercise and fresh air, to promote their good health and well-being. Children develop good physical skills and coordination as they learn to skilfully throw and catch balls. Staff supervise children well. They identify and minimise hazards to children effectively in the setting and on outings. Children develop a good understanding of how to stay safe as they act out road safety scenarios with the role play equipment. They behave well and demonstrate good social skills as they share resources. Staff are good role models and deal with any children's unacceptable behaviour calmly and sensitively.

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

The owner has a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She implements thorough checks on staff to help make sure they are suitable to work with children. The owner promotes the professional development of staff through appraisals and training. She meets regularly with staff to discuss children's learning and development to help make sure every child is making progress. The owner checks that staff are completing learning records consistently and effectively. Staff provide consistent care and support for children with additional needs. They work closely with agencies to narrow any gaps in individual children's learning. Overall, staff keep parents well informed about children's welfare and achievements through contact books, formal meetings and verbal feedback.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY341110
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	834973
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Sharon Reeve
Date of previous inspection	10 February 2011
Telephone number	01424 437630

Blacklands Playgroup registered in 2006 under the current ownership. It operates from Elim Church Hall in Hastings, East Sussex. The playgroup opens during school term times from 8.15am to 2.45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The owner employs eight staff. All of the staff, including the owner/manager, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3.

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