

St Augustines Playgroup

108 Highbury New Park, London, N5 2DR



Inspection date

21 April 2015

Previous inspection date

12 October 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

- Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff generally support children's learning well. As a result, children make good progress in their learning.
- There are robust assessment and monitoring systems in place which staff use well to track children's progress. This enables staff to identify and target any areas that children need additional help with, from an early stage.
- Children show that they are very happy and well settled in their environment. They demonstrate real enthusiasm for learning and are fast becoming capable and confident learners. Therefore, they develop good levels of well-being and key skills to support their future learning.
- The whole staff team demonstrate a clear commitment towards achieving good quality provision. Therefore, staff enable all children to achieve to their full potential.
- Staff are effectively deployed throughout the setting which ensures that children receive good levels of support as they play and learn.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently use effective questioning techniques, so do not fully promote children's communication and language development fully at such times.
- Staff miss opportunities to encourage children's independence skills further, during some routines and activities.
- Staff do not consistently encourage all parents to share information about their children's learning, including at home. Therefore, they do not take all opportunities to promote consistency in children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen questioning skills to encourage children to think and respond, in order to promote their communication and language skills further
- increase opportunities for children to develop their independence during everyday routines, to fully promote their self-help skills
- encourage parents to share information about their children's learning and development at home, to enable them to play a more active role in their children's progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and children, in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector engaged in discussions with staff and the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including children's learning journeys, the provider's written policies and procedures, and self-evaluation records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Samantha Smith

Inspection findings

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

Overall, staff support children's learning well. They plan and provide a well-resourced, interesting learning environment. Therefore, children have good opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities across the different areas of learning. Children initiate their play and staff generally promote their learning well. For example, staff talk to children about safety issues, as they use a workbench and tools, and they act as positive role models. This input encourages children's understanding of good behaviour and playing safely. Staff regularly observe children and highlight their achievements, to promote their learning further. As a result, children make good progress and are developing key skills in preparation for the next stages of their learning.

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

Children benefit from a safe and welcoming environment, where staff offer good levels of challenge to meet their developing learning needs. The well-implemented care systems contribute towards the good care and attention that children receive. For example, the key-person system means that staff promote positive relationships with children, which ensures that children's individual needs are well met. Consequently, children enjoy close attachments with staff. Staff support children well in developing their understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy daily play in the fresh air and they have good opportunities to engage in different physical activities. They enjoy a wide variety of healthy snacks to suit their dietary needs and they are able to decide when they want a drink, or something to eat.

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

Recent changes in management have not affected the smooth running of the provision and children's care and learning needs continue to be met well. The staff team are confident in their roles and they have a secure understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding arrangements and the procedures for reporting concerns are firmly in place and understood by key people. Overall, partnerships with parents and others are positive and contribute towards consistency of care for children. The robust recruitment, monitoring and performance management systems, ensures staff suitability and contributes towards the high quality of care and learning that children receive. Staff have good opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills by attending relevant training.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131737
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	836322
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	St Augustines Playgroup Highbury Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2009
Telephone number	0207 704 8003

St Augustine's Playgroup registered in 1994. It is situated in Islington. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged three and four years. The playgroup is open from 9.30am until 1.15pm, every weekday, during school term times. The provider employs five staff. Of these, four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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