

# Cockerton Playgroup

St Mary's Church Hall, Newton Lane, Darlington, DL3 9EX



## Inspection date

28 April 2015

## Previous inspection date

13 June 2014

| The quality and standards of the early years provision                                 | This inspection:     | Good                 | 2 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|
|  | Previous inspection: | Requires Improvement | 3 |
| 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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>                   |                      |                      |   |

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The recently appointed manager demonstrates a genuine commitment to improving outcomes for all children. Self-evaluation, including the views of parents, staff and the representatives from the local authority, is effective and ensures that there is an ongoing and accurate assessment of the playgroup's areas for development.
- Teaching is good because the well-qualified staff team have attended relevant training and continue to build on their good understanding of how to promote children's learning. Accurate observation, assessment and planning for individual children ensures that all children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff work well with parents and involve them in their children's learning. Daily diaries are used effectively to ensure that parents have a good understanding of how they can further support their child's learning at home. This helps to promote continuity in children's care and learning.
- Staff have attended relevant training and, as a result, have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. They are clear about how to respond if they have any concerns about the welfare of a child. As a result, children are safeguarded from harm.
- A secure key-person system and good-care practices that meet children's individual needs, ensure that children are happy, settled and form good relationships with staff. This ensures that children's emotional needs are well met.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are fewer resources available to enhance children's understanding of technology.
- Some staff at times do not challenge all children to think enough during some activities.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to develop further their understanding of the world around them, with specific reference to resources and opportunities to extend their understanding of technology
- enhance staff's understanding of how to challenge children's thinking, and use this knowledge to help children to think more critically.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities taking place in the playgroup room and the outdoor play area.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion and completed questionnaires.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and the provider's improvement plan.

### Inspector

Julie Morrison

## Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy their time at the well-resourced, friendly and safe playgroup. Staff have taken time to get to know the children. They have introduced new systems to more accurately observe and assess the progress that children are making. As a result, planning is based on all children's interests and next steps in learning. Children remain engaged in a good range of purposeful and fun activities. For example, they use a wide range of tools to roll, cut and shape soft dough. Staff extend children's vocabulary well. For example, during circle time staff model positional language such as, 'top, middle and bottom'. However, on occasion, some staff do not enhance children's thinking skills, for example, they do not ask children how they might complete a task or what it might look like. Children have good opportunities to develop their mathematical skills, as they count the pieces of dough they have and older children search out written numbers. Staff provide children with good opportunities to develop their literacy skills through mark making with paint brushes and pencils. They also listen to stories attentively and join in enthusiastically. Children learn about the world around them as they plant bulbs and look for insects using magnifying glasses. However, opportunities to enhance further children's understanding of the world around them through technology are not as well established. Staff recognise the importance of sharing information with parents and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure continuity of learning and care for children.

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

Staff are warm and caring and offer comfort and support to children when needed. Flexible settling-in processes, including obtaining detailed information about children's likes and routines, ensures that children's individual needs are met well. Staff use consistent care routines, enabling children to learn about good hygiene and healthy living. Children enjoy physical play outside and learn to manage their own risks. Staff encourage children to choose from healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks, promoting children's good physical well-being and independence. Staff are positive role models, promoting good manners and helping children to develop self-help skills. Staff manage behaviour well, helping children to learn about acceptable boundaries. As a result, children develop positive attitudes and key skills ready for their next stage in learning.

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

The newly appointed manager has a good understanding of her responsibility to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Secure recruitment and induction procedures, ensure that all those working with the children are suitable. The manager has recently introduced robust monitoring of children's progress to ensure that any gaps in the provision or in children's learning are quickly identified. The manager has also introduced regular supervision and training opportunities to support staff's ongoing development and further enhance learning experiences for children. Feedback from parents is very positive, they particularly comment on the good progress their children have made recently.

## Setting details

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | EY473888                      |
| <b>Local authority</b>             | Darlington                    |
| <b>Inspection number</b>           | 1011526                       |
| <b>Type of provision</b>           | Sessional provision           |
| <b>Registration category</b>       | Childcare - Non-Domestic      |
| <b>Age range of children</b>       | 0 - 8                         |
| <b>Total number of places</b>      | 24                            |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>  | 12                            |
| <b>Name of provider</b>            | Cockerton Playgroup Committee |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b> | 13 June 2014                  |
| <b>Telephone number</b>            | 07986337501                   |

Cockerton Playgroup was registered in 2014 at new premises, having previously been registered since 2002. The playgroup employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 or above. The playgroup opens from Tuesday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 11.15pm.

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