

Fryerns Community Playgroup

Fryerns Community Centre, Whitmore Way, BASILDON, Essex, SS14 2NN



Inspection date

12 May 2015

Previous inspection date

15 May 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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children flourish, grow in confidence and have fun at this welcoming playgroup. The providers and staff are approachable, kind and reassuring so that children soon settle. They calmly and positively help children to understand behaviour expectations and how to get on well together.
- Teaching is good. Staff skilfully interact with children to extend and challenge their play and learning. Children are developing their communication and language skills effectively.
- Staff offer a wide range of activities and resources promoting all areas of children's learning and development.
- Staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of safeguarding procedures, in order to keep children safe.
- The manager is passionate and committed to the continual improvement of the setting, striving to always provide the best care and education for the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, daily routines do not always offer opportunities for children to lead their own play.
- There are fewer opportunities available for outdoor play in order to enhance the already good learning experiences for those children who are active learners.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of routines, such as group registration, so that children's opportunities for sustained play are further encouraged
- increase the opportunities available to children for outdoor play to further enhance the learning experience particularly for those children who are active learners.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playgroup and talked with the staff.
- The inspector and manager undertook a joint observation of a teaching activity.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector reviewed the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a range of well-resourced activities that support and promote children's learning and effectively meet their needs. Children's learning journals show precise observations linked to the areas of learning. Staff use these observations to track children's progress effectively. Timely interventions ensure that all needs are appropriately met and that children develop the skills and attributes needed to support their move on to school. Staff interactions with children are strong. They skilfully talk to children and consistently use probing questioning to develop their vocabulary and extend their communication and language. However, at times, the routines of the playgroup are not sufficiently flexible to fully support children in to leading their own play. For example, staff interrupt children's play mid-session for registration. Consequently, children are not always given sufficient time to develop their own ideas and become fully engaged in their play.

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

Children are happy and settled. They are warmly welcomed by staff when they arrive and soon settle to activities in the safe and comfortable surroundings. Children demonstrate a positive approach to learning. Behaviour throughout the setting is good. Staff provide excellent role models and interact well with children, which results in an extremely calm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There is a strong focus on fostering children's independence and confidence in readiness for their future learning, including starting school. Children are encouraged to put on their coats unaided, pour drinks at snack time and increasingly manage their personal care. Children sit together during snack and mealtimes and are very sociable. They talk to each other and share experiences. Staff use these opportunities to encourage talk about the morning and to plan future activities. In this way, children's interests are further extended and they learn to listen to each other and form opinions.

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

The manager and her staff successfully promote children's good progress, health and safety. They work well together to ensure children's care routines are well managed and sessions run smoothly. Staff are suitable, well qualified and their interactions with children are strong as a result of effective recruitment, staff development and supervision procedures. The manager is passionate and committed to the continual improvement of the playgroup. She has effectively addressed actions from the previous inspection and continues to identify further areas for improvement. For example, action plans are in place to increase the amount of time available for outdoor play in order to enhance the learning opportunities for children who are active learners. However, these plans are still in their initial stages. Staff have developed positive relationships with parents who comment on how happy and settled their children are. Well-established links with local schools ensure children make smooth transitions into full-time education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402065
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	976952
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Basildon Community Association Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 May 2014
Telephone number	01268 530287

Fryerns Community Playgroup was in 1970. It operates from a shared community hall in the Basildon area of Essex. The playgroup employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 9am until 12pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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