

Abbeymead Under Fives Playgroup



Abbeymead Under Fives Playgroup, The Church Centre, Larkhay Rd, Hucclecote, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL3 3NP

Inspection date	13 May 2015
Previous inspection date	7 December 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

- The quality of teaching is good, with some outstanding practice. Staff have a secure knowledge of how children learn. Consequently, children become confident and motivated learners who are ready to start school.
- Staff monitor children's learning carefully, using their observations and discussions with parents to plan interesting and enjoyable learning experiences. Children make good progress.
- Children settle in quickly and greatly enjoy their time at playgroup. Staff work closely with parents to meet children's emotional needs. They build warm and supportive relationships with children that promote their self-esteem.
- Staff have strong partnerships with parents, who feel they are kept well informed about, and involved in, their children's learning and how to help their children at home.
- The manager and parents' committee demonstrate a good ability to drive continuous improvement. They have established effective systems for self-evaluation, including monitoring of the effectiveness of the educational programmes, which enable them to accurately identify, prioritise and action improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While there are useful visual aids in the toilet area to promote toddlers' and rising threes' learning about hand washing, there are none for toilet training.
- Although the nappy changing area is clean, it does not provide a welcoming and stimulating environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- promote children's developing independence in their self-care further through visual aids such as displays or posters that further prompt and enhance children's understanding of toilet training
- enhance the nappy changing area to make it more welcoming and to extend learning opportunities, for example, by putting up displays on the walls or mobiles overhead to promote conversation.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and staff interaction with them in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector reviewed records and documentation including planning, children's records, policies, procedures and risk assessments.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents.

Inspector

Catherine Clarke

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy interesting learning opportunities that promote their learning across all areas. They develop a love of reading and enjoy being with others as staff skilfully read stories to them and as they snuggle up with adults to share books. Staff use effective strategies and appropriate language to develop children's mathematical understanding during their play. They make effective judgements about when to interact with children to extend and consolidate their learning, and when they will learn more effectively on their own or with their peers. Staff model being thinkers and learners. They join children in their play, listen to their ideas, use questions and suggestions to help them clarify ideas, and motivate them to try and to persevere. This also promotes children's communication and language skills. Staff make accurate assessments that enable them to identify and address gaps in children's learning, involving parents and other professionals, where relevant.

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

Staff organise routines, activities and learning environments for each age group carefully, to promote children's learning, growing independence and readiness for school. Staff supervise children well to keep them safe, while giving them opportunities to try out their ideas and lead their play. They notice and are responsive to quieter children's needs, promoting their confidence to play and explore. Children behave very well. Staff provide good role models and have high expectations of children's behaviour. They supervise children well, quickly reminding them of their expectations or using distractions. Older children learn to negotiate and collaborate during their play. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and being active as they run, jump, dig and set themselves physical challenges.

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

The manager and committee work very well together to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff implement the comprehensive policies and procedures to keep children safe from harm. They know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child. Recruitment procedures ensure that new staff are vetted, and are suitably qualified and experienced. Management monitors staff performance well through annual appraisals, observations and regular discussions. Staff attend relevant training that benefits the children, for example, by improving the teaching of physical development. They work very collaboratively to share and develop their practice. Staff liaise with other providers that children attend to ensure consistency of care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101450
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	835603
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Abbeymead Under Fives Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2011
Telephone number	07934 049 139

Abbeymead Under Fives Playgroup opened in 1992. The playgroup is managed by a committee of parents and carers. It is located in the grounds of St. Phillips and St. James Church in Hucclecote, Gloucester. The playgroup provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four. The playgroup opens during school term time only. Toddler sessions run Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 11.45am. Sessions for rising threes run Monday to Friday from 12.15pm to 2.45pm. Pre-school sessions run from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 12.15pm to 2.45pm on Tuesday. There are 14 staff employed to work with the children; of these, one has a relevant qualification at Level 5 and 10 have an early years qualifications at Level 3.

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