

Magic Box Pre-school

Wellow Village Hall, Wellow, Bath, Avon, BA2 8QL



Inspection date

15 May 2015

Previous inspection date

18 June 2010

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 consistently good. All staff have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements. Therefore, they provide appropriately challenging activities to all children. As a result, children make good progress in all areas of their development.
- Children learn and develop in a safe and secure environment. Staff have a robust knowledge of child protection issues and safeguarding concerns, meaning that they are clear on the procedures to follow to protect children's welfare. They use good teaching skills to support children's understanding of their own safety.
- The setting works closely with parents and other professionals to ensure children receive the necessary input in their learning and development. The local authority, children's centre and other professionals help staff to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work together to ensure families receive their full support.
- Staff foster strong, genuine attachments with children, with flexible settling-in arrangements. This enables children to become confident, independent, and active learners who are emotionally secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the noise levels become high and the organisation of some parts of the session do not fully support children's concentration. This reduces the learning opportunities at these times.
- Occasionally, group sizes during adult-led activities, such as registration or circle time, are too big for all children to remain engaged and motivated to learn.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the noise levels and organisation of activities during some parts of the session to fully support all children's concentration and participation
- review group sizes for adult-led activities to ensure that all children are able to take part and remain motivated to learn.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled a range of paperwork, including risk assessments, policies, children's learning profiles and staff suitability documents.
- The inspector discussed the provision with the staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sought the views of parents through discussion and questionnaire comments.

Inspector

Shirelle Norris

Inspection findings

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

The experienced staff team works well together. They use their observations of children's play effectively to identify their next stages of learning. As a result, staff successfully adapt activities and target specific support to promote children's individual needs. Children with varying abilities have tailored learning plans. For example, children demonstrating above average mathematical understanding receive specific help to stimulate their learning further. Staff teach with enthusiasm. They encourage children to learn to write their names and identify numbers in small groups. This means that children are learning early mathematical and literacy skills. However, at times, the organisation of adult-led activities means that the group is too large. As a result, some children began to lose interest because their concentration is lost. However, overall, staff prepare children well for starting school or attending other settings. They have great links with the local school and children visit regularly to familiarise themselves with the environment.

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

Children have a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Staff help children to learn how to use tools safely, such as scissors. They seize opportunities in the local environment to promote awareness of risk and safety. For example, staff use the local building work to teach children about potential dangers. A construction topic furthers the learning. Children behave well and staff are consistent in teaching them what is expected. Children learn to share and take turns and become independent. However, at times, the session becomes noisy, which distracts some children from their learning and they find it difficult to concentrate. Staff promote a healthy lifestyle and are good role models to children. They ensure children have daily opportunities to learn outdoors, so children get plenty of fresh air and exercise, with space to run around and enjoy their active play.

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

Staff are experienced, enthusiastic and highly motivated. They demonstrate a strong commitment to improving achievements for all children. Effective performance management systems mean that staff receive good support through regular supervisions and meetings to improve their practice. All staff attend regular training and remain up to date with current thinking and good practice. This has resulted in the improved planning of activities and the use of a variety of different teaching methods to support individual children. Evaluation is thorough and takes into account the views of parents and children. Parents' contributions are valued and collected through discussion and questionnaires. Successful self-evaluation means that staff and the committee have addressed previous recommendations well to strengthen the provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133046
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	836349
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	Magic Box Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2010
Telephone number	07712369130

Magic Box Pre-school registered in 1996. It operates from the village hall in Wellow, south of Bath. There are four members of staff, of whom three are qualified to level 3. The group opens from 9am to 3pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, term time only. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four.

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