

Preston Park Playgroup

St Marys Church Hall, 5 Surrenden Road, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 6PA



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

10 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They refresh their child protection knowledge through regular training and know what action to take to promote children's welfare.
- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the learning and development requirements. They plan a broad range of interesting activities which help children make strong progress in their learning and acquire good skills for their future development.
- The manager and staff promote children's well-being very well. The small staff team works very effectively together to give children confidence and a strong sense of security. This promotes their emotional development.
- Children are very independent in their play, setting themselves challenges and taking time to develop their ideas.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully track children's learning against expected levels of development throughout children's time in the setting. This means that staff do not focus as sharply on children's ongoing progress as they do in other assessments, such as the progress check at age two or the school transfer summary.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- sharpen the focus of assessment by ensuring that staff track children's learning more fully against expected levels of development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at play in the playroom and outdoors.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Susan McCourt

Inspection findings

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

Staff work closely with parents when children first start at the playgroup and they write detailed assessments of children's current achievements and interests. This enables staff to plan well-targeted activities which children find challenging and enjoyable. Staff have very strong teaching skills and time their questions thoughtfully to promote children's thinking skills. For example, when children played with vehicles and added figures, staff asked them to consider where the vehicles were going, and what they might do on arrival. This encourages the children to describe and explain their ideas, enhancing their communication skills. Staff give particular attention to children with English as an additional language in order to promote their understanding and engagement in play. This means that they make strong progress in their language skills and helps them make rapid progress from their starting points.

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

Children have very good social and behaviour skills. They cooperate well in play to share ideas and work together to achieve their plans. Children understand how to play safely and manage the risks they take. For example, a child pushes his friend on a bike and keeps a careful watch on when he needs to brake and slow down. Staff give praise and encouragement for children's achievements and they grow in confidence as a result. Children are well motivated to play, because staff provide interesting activities which invite exploration. Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities, from mixing their own play dough to using ride-on toys. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy, such as washing their hands to remove the germs that might make them poorly. This promotes their physical development.

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

The manager is very effective at driving improvement. She works closely with staff, children and parents to identify priorities, such as providing further opportunities for parents to meet with their child's key person. The manager stays up to date with good practice in childcare and new initiatives. She ensures that staff attend training to maintain their professional development. For example, staff attended a conference on mathematics and, as a result, introduced new activities that helped children make good progress in this area. The manager carries out observations, supervisions and appraisals with staff to enhance their teaching skills. The highly qualified staff team work very effectively together to share skills and monitor their work and the provision. As a result, they have very consistent teaching skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130762
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	825482
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Preston Park Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 March 2011
Telephone number	01273 557 144

Preston Park Playgroup registered in 1995. It is located at St Mary's Church hall in Brighton and Hove. The setting is open five days a week during term time, from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The setting receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There is a staff team of five and all have appropriate childcare qualifications, including two staff with Qualified Teacher Status.

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