

Oakwood Community Playgroup

St.John's Road, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, RG27 8DW



Inspection date

2 June 2015

Previous inspection date

16 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is variable, particularly in the two-year-old room, and arrangements to monitor and mentor staff are not fully effective. This means that not all children consistently receive support to make good progress.

It has the following strengths

- Children explore the environment confidently. They are happy and settle quickly in response to the friendly greeting they receive from staff when they arrive.
- Staff actively promote healthy lifestyles for children through good hygiene routines, healthy eating and many opportunities for physical activities.
- The newly established leadership and management team has evaluated the provision and set in place a comprehensive development plan which includes developing all aspects of the provision, including enhancing the skills of the staff.
- All aspects of safeguarding are taken very seriously and staff are knowledgeable about the action they must take if they have concerns about children in their care.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- monitor more closely the quality of teaching and offer appropriate support and mentoring to address any inconsistencies, particularly in the two-year-old room.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises and viewed resources with the manager.
- The inspector observed the children and staff at play.
- The inspector examined records and documents provided by the manager and observed an activity with the manager.
- The inspector read feedback and discussed the setting with parents.
- The inspector read and discussed the provider's development plan.

Inspector

Lynne Lewington

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable. Generally, staff provide an interesting variety of activities that children enjoy. Children freely explore and investigate the environment which is organised to promote their developing independence and engage their interest. Staff encourage older children to write their names, and recognise letters and the sounds they represent. They talk them as they play and extend their words into sentences. Most children enjoy the opportunities to listen to stories or join in with action rhymes. However, managers take insufficient action to monitor language development in the two-year-old room. Staff working with these children do not always precisely plan and implement activities to encourage individual progress. Staff organise 'stay-and-play' sessions to provide parents with some ideas on how to support their children's learning at home.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Overall, the positive relationships staff develop with children and their families help to make children feel safe and settled. However, not all staff are sufficiently focused on children's developmental needs to recognise when to take action, such as moving a child on from a bottle to a cup. Staff ensure the premises are clean, well-maintained and hygienic. Children enjoy healthy snacks and food provided by their parents. Staff talk to children about why certain foods are good for them, increasing awareness of healthy eating. Staff are calm and caring, setting a good example for the children. Children behave well and show increasing awareness of the importance of looking after the toys. Staff understand the importance of preparing children for changes in their lives, including starting school. They are helping children develop skills that will help them adjust to school. In partnership with the local school and children centre, staff encourage parents to participate in planned activities to help them prepare their children for the changes ahead.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Careful reflection and evaluation have identified many areas for improvement. The management team is steadily addressing these with support and advice from the local authority and a nursery 'buddy' from an achieving nursery. There are appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures. However, newly introduced arrangements to supervise and appraise staff are not sufficiently embedded to address the inconsistencies in teaching. The manager clearly understands the need to monitor children's progress and to seek advice to support individual children if required. However, some staff do not make good use of their training to accurately monitor development and to take steps where a child is not progressing well enough. As a result, some children are not consistently receiving the support they need to make the best possible progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	509561
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	846854
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	Oakwood Community Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2011
Telephone number	07816 836234

Oakwood Community Playgroup registered in 1997. It is situated in the village of Hartley Witney, Hampshire. The group opens five days a week during term times only. Sessions are from 9.05am to 12.05pm or 1.05pm and afternoon sessions are from 12.05pm to 3.05pm or all day sessions from 9.05am to 3.05pm. Seven members of staff regularly work with the children; of these five members have relevant qualifications to Level 3 or Level 4. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old.

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