

Shekinah Playgroup

Western Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5WD



Inspection date

11 June 2015

Previous inspection date

15 February 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

- Partnerships between staff and parents are strong. Staff share their observations and assessments regularly and they plan together how to help children fulfil their potential. This means children have every opportunity to do well.
- Staff understand how children learn new things and use very effective teaching techniques to help them make good progress. For example, children learn new vocabulary because staff teach them new words, such as 'derail', while they play with a train set.
- The leadership team works together very well to make the pre-school the best it can be. They confidently use their knowledge and expertise to model best practice to other staff. As a result, all staff help children make good progress.
- Children are independent because staff encourage them to manage simple tasks by themselves. For example, children select their own paper for painting and put it on a drying rack when then have finished with minimal support from adults.
- Managers work with staff, parents, children and other professionals to think about ways of making the pre-school better. They have made recent changes following parents' input to introduce a lunchtime session to prepare children for school. This means that the pre-school is constantly improving for the benefit of children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not organise the change in routines to meet the needs of all children sufficiently well. For example, some children can become restless and distracted when one activity ends and staff are tidying up.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of the changes in routine so all children are engaged and do not become restless.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all indoor playrooms and outside.
- The inspector talked to all staff members about their understanding of the pre-school safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with one of the managers.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.

Inspector

Rebecca Swindells

Inspection findings

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

Staff understand how children learn and give them time to decide what, where and how they play. As a result, children are confident to choose what they want to do. Staff listen carefully to children and repeat sentences to help them develop their communication skills. They encourage developing literacy skills as they support children to read, write and draw about different animals following a farm trip. Staff teach children to use mathematics in everyday life; children building with bricks talk about how tall their towers are and others jumping on the floor use a tape measure to measure their jumps. Staff develop children's interest in the world around them by challenging what they already know. Children think hard when staff ask them if there is a comparison to be made between train length and journey length. Staff prepare children well for school by sensitively supporting their independence and confidence. Staff share what they know with teachers and meet with them to discuss individual children's needs.

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

The key-person system is well established. Children are happy, they feel secure and parents trust the staff team. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour so they play well together, taking turns and sharing resources. Children develop well physically because staff provide plenty of ways for them to practise what they can do. They remind children to wash their hands before snacks, promoting the importance of personal hygiene. They confidently rush off to complete this task before returning to eat a healthy and nutritious snack, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Staff know how to keep children safe and teach them how to manage their own risks as they play. Staff remind them about their rules and expectations, and as a result, accidents and injuries are minimised.

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

The management team fully understands their individual roles and responsibilities. They work alongside staff and share their experience and expertise with them. Managers carry out regular staff appraisals and access further training for staff. Consequently, all staff develop their knowledge, which improves the work they do. Staff have used learning from recent training to improve the quality of the questions they ask children to extend their thinking. Staff observe and assess children regularly, and use what they know to plan to help them progress. Managers recognise when children need additional support and access advice confidently from other professionals. Managers review assessments regularly to ensure that all children are making good progress. Managers use robust systems to ensure the suitability of staff and they ensure that staff fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities. These measures protect children well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113694
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	839893
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Shekinah Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 February 2011
Telephone number	01273 462 847

Shekinah Playgroup opened in 1980. The pre-school operates from two rooms in the Baptist church, located in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. The pre-school opens for four morning sessions and one afternoon session each week during school term time. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm, and from 12.45pm to 3.30pm on a Thursday. The pre-school is closed on a Wednesday. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years old. There are six members of staff, five of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications.

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