

Buttercups Pre-School Playgroup



The Grove Primary School & Nursery, Highfield Grove, STAFFORD, ST17 9RF

Inspection date	10 June 2015
Previous inspection date	23 October 2008

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

- Teaching is good. Children make good progress from their starting points and in readiness for their next stage of learning, including school.
- Staff provide an interesting range of activities based around children's interests and use topics that capture their curiosity. As a result, children's learning is challenged through an enjoyable range of experiences that make learning fun.
- The staff team place a high priority on keeping children safe. They safeguard children by working extremely well with the on-site school and other professionals working with families.
- Staff place a clear focus on fostering the children's personal, social and emotional development. This is achieved through working closely with parents and carers to understand and meet children's medical, care and emotional needs.
- There is a well-established programme of professional development for staff, which includes targeted training to continually raise the quality of teaching.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of the activities that children enjoy most, to increase their interest in mathematics.
- The good learning environment is not always used to best effect in helping children to find out about living things.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase children's interest in mathematics by using more successfully the activities that children enjoy most, to help raise achievement to a higher level
- make better use of the outdoor area and incorporate more opportunities indoors for children to find out about living things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working within the pre-school and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector also took account of the feedback from parents and carers.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

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

A key strength is staff's ability to meet the different learning needs of children within the group. Staff skilfully adapt their approach and questioning according to the age, ability and interest of the child. For example, younger children are given time to explore and investigate, while the older children are encouraged to think critically and actively learn. Staff place a clear focus on supporting children's communication skills and extending their vocabulary. Children show a real fondness for books and songs and enjoy talking to the staff, due to the interest they show. Staff provide a broad range of opportunities for children to increase their mathematical development. This is particularly evident during adult-led activities, and most children show good levels of interest and perseverance. However, staff do not incorporate mathematical learning often enough throughout children's play, such as during their imaginary play or when exploring with, sand and water. Therefore, not all children show an increased interest in quantity and calculation. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported extremely well by the staff team. They benefit from one-to-one support and make good progress from their starting points. Staff plan good opportunities for children to learn about their own family and the differing backgrounds of others. However, staff do not incorporate enough opportunities, both outdoors and indoors, for children to find out about living things, such as plants and animals.

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

Staff know all of children very well as they are all cared for in one room. They build a close bond with their assigned key children as well as children's parents and carers. Therefore, children form close attachments, are confident and show a real sense of belonging. Parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection report they are highly satisfied. They are impressed by the progress their children make and the guidance they receive to support their children further. Staff place a high priority on ensuring children learn about the importance of keeping safe and staying healthy. For example, staff have planned activities around Child Safety Week and have been teaching children about dangers in the kitchen. Children enjoy outdoor play and learn about the benefits of exercise on their bodies and which foods are healthy.

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

The manager has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Consequently, there are rigorous monitoring and actions plans in place to help the pre-school continue to build on the good practice. All staff and the manager carry out observations on the quality of teaching. This helps them precisely pinpoint where they need to focus their efforts to enhance children's learning. Consequently, the quality of teaching and the progress children make is continually improving.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY369858
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	857961
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	29
Name of provider	Castle Community Partnership Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 October 2008
Telephone number	07931 848897

Buttercups Pre-School Playgroup opened in 2008. It operates five days a week from 9am to 3.30pm, term time only. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are six members of staff employed. Of these, one holds a qualification in early years at level 5, one holds a qualification at level 4 and four hold a qualification at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

