

Pulhams Playgroup

Pulham Market Memorial Hall, The Green, Pulham Market, Norfolk, IP21 4SU



Inspection date

12 June 2015

Previous inspection date

18 March 2009

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 enthusiastic and committed staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of how children learn and develop. This helps them to plan stimulating activities, which support children's progress. As a result, children gain the key skills that they need to move on to the next stage of their learning.
- Children are extremely happy and settled in this warm and welcoming playgroup. Staff are kind, caring and show genuine interest in the children. They take delight in each child's achievements.
- The manager is passionate about her role and is committed to the continuous improvement of the setting. She strives to provide the best care and education for children.
- Staff work very hard to ensure that there is a joint approach to children's care and learning. They work very well with the local primary school, to effectively support children's move to the reception class.
- Children's safety is of paramount importance to all the staff. Robust policies and procedures are in place, to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. Staff demonstrate a clear knowledge and understanding of how to report concerns about children in their care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not focus sufficiently well on promoting children's mathematical development. For example, metric measurements are not used consistently and resources do not always stimulate and encourage children to use their mathematical knowledge in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support children's developing awareness of mathematical concepts, by consistently using metric measurement and providing resources that promote and support children's interest in shapes, space, numbers and counting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and viewed samples of parents' written feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting and a range of other documentation including policies and procedures.
- The inspector observed activities in the playgroup and in the outside play space.

Inspector
Gill Coathup

Inspection findings

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

Staff effectively use observations of the children's achievements, based on accurate starting points. Plans for progression are linked to planned activities. Consequently, children's individual needs are met and they make good progress in their learning and development, in relation to their starting points. However, mathematics is not promoted as well as other areas of learning. Staff do not consistently use metric measurement when talking about length, and resources and activities to do with mathematics do not always sufficiently challenge and stimulate children. Children enjoy a varied range of activities. They are motivated to learn and choose resources independently. For example, as a group of children play with construction toys, they make complicated robots that transform into vehicles. They give detailed and precise explanations of how to build a robot and how it works. As they play, they develop a storyline using language to organise, sequence and clarify their ideas. They listen to each other intently, developing and expanding their ideas as they talk.

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

Staff provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere and promote children's independence. For example, each child finds their name card as they arrive and places it in a letter box. Older children go to the writing table and independently write their names. Strong attachments between children and staff ensure the children's emotional well-being. Staff are positive role models, treating the children, and each other, with respect and courtesy. This means that the children learn by example, are kind and caring, and play together beautifully. Children have a clear understanding of boundaries and expected behaviours. As a result, they share, take turns and say 'Please' and 'Thank you' independently. Children have regular access to the outside area where they have opportunities to be physically active. This promotes healthy lifestyles and physical well-being. Parents speak very positively about the playgroup. Constant communication ensures that they feel fully involved and well informed.

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

The well-qualified staff work particularly effectively as a team. Their drive for improvement is clearly evident. The staff strive to enhance their own professional knowledge as well as improving outcomes for children. This is done by frequently attending training and regular staff meetings. They have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff carefully analyse the impact of training on their practice and on the learning and development of the children. For example, a recent focus on the learning and development needs of two-year-old children has helped staff to improve provision for the children in their care. Staff supervision is carried out regularly. This ensures that high standards are maintained. Staff comment that supervision effectively supports them to reflect upon, and develop, their teaching.

Setting details

Unique reference number	254236
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	866852
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	Pulham's Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 March 2009
Telephone number	07752 878612

Pulhams Playgroup is a voluntary, committee-run facility which opened in 1992 and operates from the Memorial Hall in Pulham Market, Norfolk. The setting operates term time only, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The setting employs three members of staff, two of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications to level 3. The setting also employs an administrator.

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