

Quoiting Square

United Reform Church, Oxford Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 2NH



Inspection date

16 June 2015

Previous inspection date

23 June 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

- Staff ensure a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment for all children. They build close and supportive relationships with children. This promotes children's sense of well-being and enables them to confidently participate in playgroup life.
- Parents feel well informed about their children's progress. They appreciate the advice and support that staff give. This effective partnership helps to ensure children that make good progress at home and at the playgroup.
- Staff ensure that adult-led activities are well planned and meet the individual needs of the children involved. As a result, children thoroughly enjoy activities that help them develop new skills.
- Staff monitoring and supervisions are effective in ensuring staff know what they are doing well and where they could improve further. This helps ensure that the high standards of care and education are maintained.
- The manager is effective in reviewing all aspects of the provision, including children's progress. She uses this information to set targets for further improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children have opportunities to take part in art and creative activities, at times, staff offer a little too much direction, which does not encourage children to explore their own ideas. For example, the provision of images that have already been cut out stops children from trying to create their own.
- Staff ensure there are always pens, pencils and chinks available for children to use. However, they do not always encourage older children to use these to practise their emerging writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve opportunities for children to express their own ideas through art and design to fully promote their creativity
- extend opportunities for children to further practise their early writing skills to fully promote their developing literacy.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding, child protection and first aid.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, policies and staff qualifications.

Inspector
Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff work together as an effective team to ensure all children develop the key skills that prepare them well for a successful move to school when the time comes. Older children enjoy opportunities to learn about shapes, numbers and letters. Younger children enjoy cosy story times with kind and attentive staff. All children have plenty of opportunities to make choices about what they would like to do and the group is full of happy, busy children. Staff are always nearby to offer guidance and support and to ensure that all children progress well in their learning. In general, staff organise resources well and make good use of opportunities to extend children's learning. However, the range of craft resources is not always inspiring and staff do not fully encourage more able children to 'have a go' at writing familiar words, such as their own names.

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

Children's care needs are well met. Staff have improved the range of snacks available. They make good use of mealtimes to encourage independence and teach children about the benefits of a healthy diet. Staff ensure children have daily opportunities to be outside, either on the group's site or out and about in the local community. The manager ensures all staff fully understand their responsibility to safeguard children and all staff know what they must do if concerned about a child's welfare. Staff check the premises for hazards and take the necessary steps to minimise any risks to children's health or safety. Staff ensure that accident records contain all necessary information.

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

The manager and her deputy work as an effective team to fulfil the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They regularly consult parents to find out their views and use this information to develop what they offer. The staff team also has experience of working effectively with other professionals to meet children's needs. Together, the manager and deputy set priorities for further improvements. Since their last inspection, they have improved the effectiveness of assessments so that they can build accurate pictures of children's progress. Currently, they are considering how to further improve ways of displaying children's paintings and pictures. As a management team, they demonstrate a good capacity for further improvement. The manager ensures that staff work together to effectively evaluate each other's practice. Staff welcome the valuable feedback from the manager that helps to improve their teaching skills still further. They enjoy opportunities to attend training and gain new qualifications. For example, how to support children with English as an additional language.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116673
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	835984
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Christine Neiseke
Date of previous inspection	23 June 2011
Telephone number	0794 1311021 and 01494 450 658

Quoiting Square Playgroup registered in 1992. It is located in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. The playgroup is open from 9am until 1pm, Monday to Friday, for 49 weeks of the year. It receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. Of the five members of staff employed, three hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3.

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