

Martlesham Playschool

Gorseland Primary School, Deben Avenue, Martlesham Heath, IPSWICH, IP5 3QR



Inspection date

16 June 2015

Previous inspection date

21 September 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		Outstanding	1
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 quality of teaching is good and at times is outstanding. Staff provide an excellent range of high-quality learning experiences for children, both inside and outdoors. As a result, children are highly motivated and eager to explore.
- The staff provide many opportunities for children to develop an understanding of numbers and counting. Children enjoy using the large calculators to add two numbers together. Furthermore, games outside encourage children to count their steps before the pretend wolf chases them away.
- Children are very well prepared for their move to school. New teachers visit the playschool to observe the children in their familiar environment. The staff help children to talk about what makes them happy, so that they can share this with their new teachers. This effectively promotes their excitement and readiness for the next stage of learning.
- The playschool staff have established strong partnerships with parents. The staff give parents and children time to sit together without being rushed to enter or leave the playschool. Parents talk positively about the care and support the staff provide for their children.
- The playschool leader and staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. Through putting their good written policies and procedures in place, they actively promote children's safety and welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The good ongoing monitoring of the practice does not always support all staff to develop new ideas of how to promote children's learning and development to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the good development of all staff even further, for example, by helping them to identify how to gain new ideas on how to promote children's learning, such as through observing each other's practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and in the outside play area and talked to the staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and held a meeting with the playschool leader.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documents and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding procedure.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and of the committee members.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and of the playschool's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

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

Children are eager to investigate and enjoy the many varied experiences available to them. The dedicated and highly motivated staff support them by making learning fun and exciting. Children show high levels of concentration and quickly become engrossed in the excellent activities. For example, children enjoy making marks in paint on the table. They are interested in the print they make as they press paper on top of their pattern. The staff use this activity as an opportunity to develop children's early writing skills, by encouraging the children to write their name. However, at times, some staff are not always supported to develop new ideas for children's learning more swiftly. The staff assess and identify children's starting points and ongoing development stages well. They regularly share these assessments with parents and encourage them to provide information on what children have been doing and learning at home. This ensures all children make excellent progress in all areas and many exceed development expectations.

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

Children are extremely happy and confident, and enjoy their time at this lovely playschool. The staff actively use the outside area to enhance the children's enjoyment of the natural environment. For example, staff support children as they pretend to bake in the mud kitchen. They pick herbs that are growing in the garden and talk to them about the smell and how this will make their food taste delicious. The staff support children to take safe risks as they play. For example, they encourage children to persevere as they try to walk on the stilts. Children show high levels of skill and determination, they are very pleased when they are able to do it. This helps them to develop their excellent physical skills. The staff are meticulous in ensuring the snacks they provide are healthy and meet the dietary needs of all children. Staff invite children to come for snacks when they are ready. They are asked to initially take two items of food as their tummies may be full after this. If they are not full, they can then choose to have more. This effectively supports children to understand how their bodies work and helps them not to waste food.

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

The playschool leader and staff use effective systems to monitor the educational programme and to track children's progress. All staff are alert to hazards and take all measures necessary to ensure children's safety. The staff are highly qualified and they demonstrate a determined drive to continuously develop their practice. This is reflected in their informative self-evaluation document. Staff are supported by a highly effective programme of training. They share the new knowledge they gain from training courses with each other at staff meetings. This means that they can further build on and support each other in their practice. The leader carries out regular supervisions in order to check the performance of all the staff team. However, these supervisions are not always highly effective in ensuring that all staff can maximise their knowledge and practice of how children learn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY415425
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	874330
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Martlesham Playschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2011
Telephone number	01473625986

Martlesham Playschool was registered in 2010 and employs nine members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one member of staff who holds Early Years Professional status. The playschool opens from Monday to Friday through school term times from 9am until 3.15pm. The playschool provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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