

Play and Learn Pre-School

Scouts' Hall, Mayplace Road West, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4JB



Inspection date

18 June 2015

Previous inspection date

9 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is variable as staff miss opportunities to develop children's learning.
- Staff do not consistently reinforce rules for appropriate or expected behaviour in a positive way. As a result, children do not always understand the behaviour expectations.
- The manager takes some steps to identify staff's professional development needs. However, this is not rigorous enough to help staff develop their skills and abilities to provide good-quality teaching to children.
- Self-evaluation is not fully effective in identifying weaknesses to target improvements to benefit children's outcomes.

It has the following strengths

- Staff know the children well and develop good relationships with them. This means the children are happy and settled at the pre-school.
- Staff actively promote children's good health through hygiene routines, healthy eating and opportunities for physical play.
- Children enjoy a variety of resources and activities outdoors to support their physical development, such as bikes, cars and large-scale painting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the quality of teaching through more rigorous monitoring of staff practice to provide experiences, interactions and activities that challenge children so they make good progress
- improve staff's understanding of behaviour management so that children have consistent messages so they understand what is expected of them.

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

- develop the self-evaluation processes so they are effective in identifying weaknesses to target improvements to benefit children's outcomes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke with children and staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of policies and procedures, suitability checks and staff qualifications.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Children are happy to attend the pre-school and choose from a range of activities. However, there are times when children play alone without staff support or interaction. As a result, staff do not consistently challenge children's learning and children quickly lose interest. This inconsistency in teaching means not all children make good progress in their learning. Children develop their reading and writing skills ready for starting school as staff help children to recognise their written name. However, at times staff miss opportunities to develop children's understanding of letter sounds to further support their literacy skills. Children enjoy listening to stories. They turn the pages and join in with familiar words and phrases in the story. This appropriately supports their developing language skills.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff support children's emotional well-being securely. As a result, children are confident to explore and make their own choices. The effective key-person approach supports children's individual care needs. Staff provide a supportive settling-in process for new children. They work with parents to support children well at this time, which helps develop children's self-esteem and confidence. Children successfully manage their own self-care and hygiene routines. For example, they confidently wash their hands and pour drinks. Staff do not always manage children's behaviour consistently and children are unsure of expectations. As a result, they do not always behave suitably. Staff carry out daily safety checks to minimise possible risks and hazards to children. Children take part in regular fire drills so they learn how to keep safe in an emergency.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager and staff provide a safe and secure environment. They implement appropriate policies and procedures to support children's well-being and safety. Staff attend regular training, such as first aid and safeguarding. This helps staff to have a good understanding of how to protect children's welfare and manage any concerns about their well-being. The manager monitors staff practice and children's progress. However, this is not fully effective to identify weaknesses in teaching practice and to support staff to develop their practice further. The manager and staff complete some evaluations of the provision to make improvements. However, these are not sufficiently rigorous to identify and address weaknesses in the quality of teaching. Staff form positive partnerships with parents and other providers. They share information and promote a consistent approach to support children's learning and move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	115361
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	839986
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Tina Mackin
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2011
Telephone number	07762320165

Play and Learn Pre-School registered in 1993. It operates from a scout hall in Bexleyheath, in the London Borough of Bexley. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.15am to 12.15pm for 38 weeks of the year. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who are learning English as an additional language. There are five members of staff, who all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four.

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