

Chanctonbury Playschool

The Old School, Rectory Lane, Ashington, PULBOROUGH, West Sussex, RH20 3AS



Inspection date

17 June 2015

Previous inspection date

9 February 2010

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 playschool leadership team is good. The committee of parents understand their responsibilities fully and support the playschool manager very well. As a result, there is a shared commitment to improve the playschool for the benefit of children.
- Children have a determined attitude to their learning and show pride in their work. They express themselves imaginatively in creative tasks because staff challenge them with small group individualised activities that interest and motivate them.
- Staff use exciting activities, such as baking, to teach children mathematical skills. Consequently, children develop good mathematical understanding as they learn how to read weighing scales and complete simple calculations about ingredients.
- All staff and the committee of parents understand their responsibility to keep children safe. Leaders use robust recruitment and checking systems to ensure that all adults are suitable to work with children. This helps to protect children well.
- Children develop good physical skills and learn to manage their own risks because staff teach them how to run, jump and climb safely. Children understand safety rules, such as why they should wear a cycling helmet, and they learn to be aware of other children playing around them. This means that accidents and injuries are minimised.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, the staff do not organise whole-group activities to meet the needs of all children sufficiently well. For example, at story time older children overshadow the contributions of younger children because they can think more quickly and are more confident to speak out in front of the whole group.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of group activities, particularly for the younger children, so that all children have time to think, can contribute their ideas and benefit from the learning opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to staff, children, parents and some committee members during the inspection and took account of what they said.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a whole-group activity with the playschool manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including staff records, playschool policies, procedures and children's development files.
- The inspector observed activities in all areas of the playschool, including outside.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playschool manager to discuss her leadership role.

Inspector

Rebecca Swindells

Inspection findings

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

Children are confident and independent because staff help them to make decisions about what, where and how they play. They learn to communicate well because staff support their developing language skills effectively. Following training, staff now identify children in need of additional support promptly and put measures into place to help them. Staff support children's emerging literacy skills well by reading to children regularly and by teaching the names and sounds of letters. Children benefit from strong links with the community. They visit the local school as part of their Christmas celebrations and visits from local professionals, such as firefighters, enhance their understanding of their community. Children transfer confidently to school because staff prepare them well. Staff teach them to be sociable, motivated and enthusiastic about learning new things. Comprehensive transfer documents ensure that teachers understand the strengths and weaknesses of children that are joining them.

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

Staff are good role models for children. They rarely need to remind children about their behaviour as they all behave extremely well in the calm environment. The key-person system is well established. Parents know all staff well and have confidence in them. Children are happy and enjoy close relationships with staff. Key persons observe what children can do, assess their progress and share their plans with parents. Consequently, children make good progress supported by adults who understand their strengths and weaknesses. Staff teach children about healthy living. They encourage them to exercise and help them to identify the most nutritious food in their lunch boxes.

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

The manager leads her team by example. She supports them well and confidently identifies training that will help them improve. As a result, they develop good professional skills. The manager monitors all children's records to ensure that they are accurate. She identifies children in need of additional help and accesses support from other professionals promptly so that all children progress well. The manager has a strong vision for making the playschool better and the committee enables them to fulfil their plans. They have purchased imaginative activities to enhance children's writing. Staff use these to encourage children to practise what they have learnt, such as keeping score in a game.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113814
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	846053
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Chanctonbury Playschool Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2010
Telephone number	01903 891722

Chanctonbury Playschool is run by a committee. It registered in 2000 and operates from the former village school in Ashington, West Sussex. The playschool is open on Monday and Tuesday from 9am to 12 noon, and from 9am to 1.30pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The playschool is open term time only. The playschool receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four. The playschool employs four staff, three of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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