

Highnam Under Fives

Wetherleigh Drive, Highnam, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 8LW



Inspection date

19 June 2015

Previous inspection date

19 September 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 are well qualified and have a good knowledge and understanding of how children develop. Staff plan a wide range of activities that meet the needs of all children. As a result, children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff work across toddler, playgroup and out-of-school provision. This means that children are well prepared for changes and moving on in their learning.
- Staff communicate effectively with children, asking them questions and allowing them time to think before responding. Consequently, all children develop good language skills including those who have additional needs.
- Partnerships with parents and others are very good. Staff share information with parents in ways that support children to settle in well. As a result, children's confidence and self-esteem grows and they make good progress.
- Managers and leaders support staff well. Training is targeted to improve skills and knowledge. This means children benefit from well-planned experiences that meet their needs and promote their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to promote all areas of learning outside to best support those children who learn better outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on opportunities to promote children's development across all areas of learning in the outdoor play space.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children in the indoor and outdoor play spaces.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at documents including children's records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Anita McKelvey

Inspection findings

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

Staff use observations and assessments of children to help them plan activities that meet children's learning needs and monitor their progress carefully. Children learn about letters, sounds and words through rhyming activities, songs and following written words on display. They discover numbers and counting, for example, by celebrating children's birthdays and picking out the correct numeral for their age. Parents contribute to children's records by sending in achievements from home, writing comments on reports and sharing targets that have been set in the playgroup. As a result, children benefit from consistency in their learning and make good progress. Key persons work with children, families and others, sharing information about children's progress. As a result, children's needs are identified quickly and appropriate support is implemented, when necessary, to ensure all make good progress.

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

Children's key persons know them well. They make sure children have familiar objects to help them settle. Children have regular access to the outdoor area where they engage in physical activity. The wooden pirate ship with ladders, slides and obstacles encourages children to experiment with their bodies and develop their physical skills. The environment is well organised and stimulating. Children are encouraged to make choices as they choose resources for themselves. Staff are good role models. As a result, children know what is expected of them and behaviour is good. Children make sandwiches for a picnic snack and talk about the ingredients they are using. This supports them in understanding healthy food choices. Children are well supported in moving on to school through planned and spontaneous activities. For example, children participate in planned physical activities in the school hall and talk to school children as they pass by the outdoor area.

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

Managers have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, including how to safeguard children and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns. Regular evaluations, monitoring and training of staff support them in gaining more knowledge, skills and understanding. This means staff can better support children's learning and development. Managers constantly seek to improve the services that the playgroup provides. Systems for what is working and what needs to improve are effective. Good relationships with parents and the school help children settle into the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101731
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	824669
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	77
Name of provider	Highnam Under Fives Committee
Date of previous inspection	19 September 2008
Telephone number	01452 384386

The setting registered in 1979 and operates from a classroom in Highnam Church of England Primary School, which is situated in a residential area in Gloucester. The group took over the running of the breakfast and after school club in 2014. The group is open on weekdays during term times from 9am to 3.30pm. Breakfast club runs from 8am to 9am and the after school club runs from 3.30pm to 6pm. The setting employs six staff. The manager holds a level 5 foundation degree and all other staff hold relevant early years qualifications. The group has extremely close links with the school and local church where staff from the playgroup run a toddler session.

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