

St Andrews Playgroup

St. Andrews Church, Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 7NJ



Inspection date	25 June 2015
Previous inspection date	29 June 2012

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 make good decisions about when to become involved in children's play and when children will learn more by exploring independently. As a result, children become very involved in what they are doing and make good progress.
- Staff form very effective partnerships with parents and other professionals. These help ensure children's learning is well supported both at home and at playgroup. These partnerships are particularly successful when working with children who have additional needs.
- Care practices help all children feel safe and welcome at the playgroup. Children enjoy helping staff check for hazards. They routinely approach staff for hugs and a chat. The playgroup is clearly a happy place to be.
- The manager and staff have successful systems in place for monitoring children's progress. They quickly identify when children are not making the best possible progress, and puts in place the necessary help to close these gaps.
- The manager ensures all staff share her understanding of safeguarding. As a result, all staff know what they must do if they are concerned about a child's welfare.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff ensure there are lots of pens, pencils and notebooks available, but do not always organise them in the best way. As a result, children do not often choose to use them as part of their play, for example, to mark their names on their creative work, to further their developing early-literacy skills.
- Staff do not always ensure that children fully engage and concentrate during group singing sessions, to extend their creative development.

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 increase their interest in print and to practise their early-writing skills
- extend children's creative development by improving the organisation of singing times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and students about their understanding of child protection, safeguarding and first aid.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- 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

Staff work as an effective team. They organise a wide range of activities for all children to enjoy. For example, children learn lots about numbers and counting as they make pretend cakes with staff, while others explore shape and size when playing at the water tray. All children enjoy their time outside in the garden, where they are lots of opportunities to run and climb, and check on the progress of the vegetables they planted. Staff plan a range of interesting outings too. Children visit shops, parks and libraries, and enjoy the chance to travel by bus. Staff have improved how they organise each session since the last inspection to ensure that children do not spend too long coming together as a whole group. As a result, staff have seen the positive impact this has had on children's progress. However, when children do come together for a short singing session some children become frustrated because they are not sitting at the front or getting a chance to choose a song. However, on the whole, the quality of teaching is very good which ensures children are well prepared for the next steps in their learning, including the move to school when the time comes.

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

Children blossom and grow in confidence during their time at the playgroup. Staff help them learn to play together and acknowledge when they have been kind or helpful. Children play an important role in the running of the playgroup, they help choose the snacks and staff sought their opinions when making improvements to the garden. Staff ensure that children can independently find the resources and toys they want to use. However, children's name cards are not close by at snack time or near the writing resources to further encourage children's interest in words and print.

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

The manager understands and implements the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well. In addition to monitoring children's progress she demonstrates a strong commitment to reviewing all aspects of playgroup life and planning further improvements. For example, she is planning improvements to the settling in process to ensure all children and parents feel confident about starting playgroup. She has improved opportunities to share information with parents, who are keen to praise the kindness of staff and all the support they offer. They enjoy sharing books from the playgroup library and appreciate the opportunity to borrow resources, such as to help support potty training and fussy eaters. Staff appreciate the feedback they receive on their performance and make good use of training opportunities to further improve what they do. For example, staff learnt some sign language to aid communication with hearing impaired children and parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY271783
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	833378
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Susanne Smith
Date of previous inspection	29 June 2012
Telephone number	07906301837

St. Andrews Church Playgroup registered in September 2003. It is located in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. It is open from 9.15am to 12.15pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four. There are seven members of staff employed. The manager has Qualified Teacher Status and five other staff members have relevant childcare qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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