

Coleman Playgroup

9a Balderstone Close, Leicester, LE5 4ES



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

17 June 2015

8 September 2009

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

- High priority is given to creating strong relationships with parents, carers and other agencies. This ensures that children's needs are well met, including those who need additional support.
- Children's communication and language skills, including those who speak English as an additional language, are effectively promoted. This is achieved through staff's positive interactions and consistently good use of signs and symbols.
- The well-established staff team are qualified and knowledgeable. As a result, they understand individual children's learning needs and demonstrate consistently good teaching.
- Managers and staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and safeguarding requirements. This effectively promotes children's welfare.
- There is a highly successful key-person system in place and staff provide high levels of care to each child. Staff know children very well and help them to feel included and valued.
- Staff are excellent role models and children's behaviour is very good. This results in a calm and positive learning environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, group times are not well organised, which makes it difficult for all children to remain engaged.
- Arrangements for the performance management of staff is not always fully effective in ensuring training opportunities are accurately targeted to staff's learning needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the structure and size of groups for adult-led activities to help all children remain fully engaged
- strengthen the current arrangements for the performance management of staff and ensure that training is targeted to individual learning needs, in order to enhance the already good quality of teaching.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and outside, and spoke to children and staff when appropriate.
- The inspector viewed all areas accessed by children, including the outdoor environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning.
- The inspector met with the manager, looked at a range of policies and procedures and checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Claire Jenner

Inspection findings

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

Staff complete regular observations of children as they play. They take into account children's interests and information gathered from parents to plan for their next steps in learning. Children eagerly take part in a range of enjoyable learning experiences, including adult-led group activities. However, on occasion some children lose concentration due to the dynamics and number of children involved. Staff take care to create an interesting and stimulating environment both indoors and outside. For example, children explore the texture of paint indoors as they create marks on paper with their fingers, and use computers with confidence. While supported by a member of staff, children sort and weigh plastic shapes, which contribute to their mathematical development. In the garden, children explore natural resources, such as water, sand and mud. An unexpected find of a ladybird provides an opportunity to learn about nature.

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

Staff are friendly and welcoming. As a result, children happily enter the playgroup, settle quickly and explore the environment with confidence. In addition, staff understand the needs of each child's family and ensure that they are always available to talk and listen to them. Children have many opportunities to develop their personal skills and independence. For example, they are actively involved in preparing snack, putting on their shoes and coat and making choices of whether they would like to play indoors or outside. This helps to ensure that they are well prepared for their next stage in learning. Children are developing healthy lifestyles. This is because staff actively promote physical play in the well-resourced outdoor area. Children practice their physical skills with friends and staff, as they throw and catch a ball. Children learn to keep themselves safe and take managed risks. For example, they count the steps to the top of the grass slope before rolling back down. Children eat well at snack time and are encouraged to try healthy and nutritious snacks.

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

Managers and staff work closely together and share a strong commitment to providing a good quality experience to children. The manager and staff work in close partnership with other early years professionals to reflect on and improve the provision by setting clear targets. The manager holds regular staff meetings and has begun to carry out supervision meetings with staff members. In addition, she has started to observe staff practice to help identify key strengths and areas for further support. However, these arrangements are not yet fully effective in helping the manager to guide staff to the most suitable training opportunities. Parents are highly complimentary of staff and comment that they are approachable and nurturing. Strong links with other settings, including local schools, means that children are well prepared as they move on to their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY389623
Local authority	Leicester City
Inspection number	859207
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	13
Name of provider	Leicester City Council
Date of previous inspection	8 September 2009
Telephone number	0116 292 4500

Coleman Playgroup reopened in 2009. It operates from a Children's Centre in the Rowlatts Hill area of Leicester. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs and/or learning disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language. The pre-school operates from Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 11.30pm, during term times. There is a total of four staff, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

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