

Alban Pre-School Playgroup

Christ Church, Pennefather Hall, St. Albans Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 4LA



Inspection date

26 June 2015

Previous inspection date

16 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children have very strong relationships with staff. They are very happy and well cared for. They are emotionally secure because staff respect and care extremely well for their individual needs.
- Adults are well qualified, have an excellent understanding of how children learn and plan a rich and varied educational programme. This contributes to teaching that is very strong. Children make excellent progress with their communication skills and benefit from skilled staff posing challenging questions.
- Staff complete rigorous observations and assessments of children's achievements and identify their next steps in learning accurately. Staff know the children extremely well and plan activities that prepare them very well for the next stage in their learning.
- The manager and her staff team work extremely well together and continually
- reflect upon their practice. As a result, children make excellent progress in their learning and development.
- Resources are very good. The nursery rooms, toys and equipment provide exciting and safe learning opportunities for children of all ages. This encourages them to take risks, experiment, explore and try new activities.
- Parents are extremely supportive and very well informed about all aspects of their children's care and learning. This is highly beneficial to the progress their children make.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide equipment consistently outdoors to fully build on children's curiosity and encourage them to investigate further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the owner and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of staff practice with the owner.
- The inspector looked at a variety of documentation, children's assessment books, planning, policies and procedures, and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector observed activities, inside and outside, and the quality of teaching.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

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

Children join in eagerly and are highly motivated because activities are inviting and enticing. As a result, they learn effectively and develop excellent powers of concentration. The sharp focus on communication skills enables them to make great strides in speaking and listening. All children make rapid improvement in developing their early writing skills because they enjoy extremely successful activities that motivate them. Highly exciting and well-planned activities give plenty of chances for children to investigate and explore. Staff use challenging questions which help to develop excellent mathematical and scientific understanding. At the inspection, staff intervened at the right time after quietly observing children placing mud and toys in the water tray. As a result of practical activities, children learn to be independent, think for themselves and further develop their imaginary play. Exciting resources outside enable children to develop their physical and personal skills as they explore how to use them. Occasionally, staff do not make additional equipment more accessible to encourage children to investigate and develop their curiosity even further. Nonetheless, children receive excellent preparation for school.

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

Daily care practices are excellent because the staff know the children extremely well. Very strong relationships successfully contribute to children's personal, social and emotional development. Staff have a very secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and keep children free from harm. Adults guide children and are very good role models. They help them understand the importance of playing with friends, of being kind and helpful, and of thinking carefully about their actions. Consequently, children are happy and well behaved. Children have a very good understanding of how to keep themselves safe and confidently find the safety equipment they need. Children show high levels of independence and develop an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles promoted through robust daily routines.

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

Teaching is excellent because planning caters for the individual needs of all children. Staff take prompt steps to work with other professionals to support those who need extra help. Relationships with parents, who are fully involved in helping their children learn and develop, are excellent. The manager and deputy successfully drive improvement by making sure that all staff understand their roles and responsibilities. They encourage them to attend further training to improve practice. Management's self-evaluation includes contributions from parents. It is highly focused and exceptionally effective in driving improvements. This includes meeting the recommendations raised at the last inspection. In particular, developing an excellent outdoor environment and ensuring children's safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	147493
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	846679
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	Eve Brown
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2011
Telephone number	079402 99284

Alban Pre-School Playgroup registered in 2000. It operates in Barnet, in the London Borough of Barnet. The playgroup is open from 9am until 4pm every weekday during term time. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four years. There are eight staff working with the children; of these, two hold qualifications at level 6, three hold qualifications at level 3 and two hold qualifications at level 2.

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