

The Crickets Playgroup

St Johns Pavillion, Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8HG



Inspection date

1 July 2015

Previous inspection date

28 February 2011

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 observe and assess children's learning regularly. This provides them with a good knowledge of children's interests and enables them to plan appropriate challenges to enhance their development.
- The manager identifies additional training for staff to help them enhance their support for children's individual needs. For example, staff have attended training on how to support language development, which has had a positive impact on children's communication skills.
- Children have secure relationships with staff. Consequently, children are happy and feel safe to seek staff out to take part in their play.
- The manager is committed to constantly improving the provision. For example, the manager identified a lack of information and communication technology equipment and purchased more. Children now confidently explore modern technology.
- Staff have good relationships with parents. Staff share information about children's progress at playgroup and encourage parents to contribute ideas to their child's learning journey. This shared approach provides consistency for children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always give children time to respond to the questions they ask. This means staff do not encourage children to think and respond with their own ideas.
- Children do not have consistent opportunities to see and use print in the environment to promote their early reading skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve staff's questioning techniques to give children sufficient time to respond to their questions to fully develop their ideas and thoughts
- develop children's understanding that print carries meaning to promote their early literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector spoke to staff about children's development and knowledge of policies and procedures.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled the setting's written documentation and children's development records.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views and feedback on the setting and staff.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good knowledge of the learning and development requirements. Staff work in partnership to plan good activities for children, taking into consideration their next steps in learning. This ensures children remain engaged and motivated and ultimately make good progress in preparation for school. Staff initiate small group games, which encourage children to work together. Children learn to take turns and staff help them to recognise colours and count. This successfully supports children's social skills and developing knowledge of number. Children have opportunities inside and outside to make marks that help to develop their early writing skills. Staff are aware of children's stages of development and provide them with good challenges. Children enjoy exploring outdoors. They use magnifying glasses to hunt for insects and shout with excitement when they succeed. Staff encourage children to explore further. They use their senses to discover lavender and staff ask them to describe the feeling and smell.

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

Children behave well and respond to staff's instructions and requests. Staff provide children with constant praise, which promotes children's positive behaviour. Staff understand the importance of providing for children's interests. Staff give children time to try things out for themselves as they engage in the activities. Staff praise children when they solve problems, which develops their confidence and self-esteem. Staff encourage children to choose and cut fruit for snack but provide support if needed. This allows children to take risks as they learn how to use knives safely. Children benefit from pouring their drinks, which develops their independence. These activities help prepare children with the skills they will require for school. Children and staff balance balls on large spoons and race each other while trying to keep the ball balanced. This contributes to children's healthy lifestyles and the development of physical skills.

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

The manager has a good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. The manager uses good recruitment procedures. Formal interviews, observed play sessions and enhanced safety checks ensure the suitability of new staff. The manager provides good inductions and mentoring for new staff to ensure they are confident to carry out their role and provide good-quality care and learning for children. Consequently, the manager and staff know how to keep children safe. The manager monitors children's progress effectively. Regular staff meetings provide opportunities to discuss children's progress. Good relationships with other settings children attend ensure a shared approach to help children make progress. Staff work closely with teachers, which helps children move smoothly on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113761
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	835932
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	The Crickets Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2011
Telephone number	01444 247903

Crickets Playgroup registered in 1994 and operates from a sports pavilion in St John's Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The setting opens during school term time from 9.15am to 12.15pm Monday to Friday. In the summer term, they are also open on Monday and Wednesday from 12.15pm to 2.45pm for children that will be moving on to school. The setting receives funding for the free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are five members of staff; of these, four hold an appropriate early years qualification.

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