

Bellegrove Playgroup

Methodist Church, Bellegrove Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 3RA



Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

11 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
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		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not use questioning effectively to support children's language development and learning.
- Staff miss opportunities to develop children's interest in things and, therefore, do not always follow these to extend children's learning.
- Children are not always encouraged to develop their writing skills in preparation for school.
- Staff follow daily routines that are not always flexible enough to enable children to finish and complete their self-chosen tasks. As a result, at times, children's learning is interrupted.

It has the following strengths

- Children have a good understanding of how to play safely and how their actions may affect others. This is due to clear guidance and support from staff.
- Key persons work closely with other professionals. This ensures that children receive the support that they require as agreed strategies are implemented to help children make progress.
- Management implement suitable risk assessments and staff follow procedures to help keep children safe and secure at the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the quality of teaching through increasing the staff's understanding of how to use questions and children's interests to enhance and extend their learning.

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

- minimise the interruptions to children's play so that they can continue with their learning
- encourage children to use their early writing skills during everyday experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the garden.
- The inspector had discussions with staff, parents and children.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with a staff member.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's learning journals and staff records.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers.

Inspector
Karen Scott

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Children make choices about what they play with and are confident learners who explore and investigate. For example, children enjoy investigating real items, such as sticks. However, staff do not always build on children's interests. For example, staff throw the sticks away rather than use children's interest to build on their learning. Staff engage children in conversations. However, they do not ask children a range of questions to promote children's learning because most questions require one word answers. Children are emotionally well prepared for the next steps in their learning. Key persons work closely with parents and carers to plan activities to support children's move to school. However, staff do not routinely promote children's early writing skills, for example, they automatically write children's names on work for them. There are many opportunities for children to recognise their names throughout the session, including the self-registration system on arrival.

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

Children have strong relationships with staff and are keen to play and interact with them. Staff work very closely with parents and carers to support children and manage their care needs. This results in settled and happy children. Staff encourage parents and carers to share important words in children's home languages. This supports children who are learning English as an additional language and helps them to settle and feel part of the group. Children's self-esteem is high as their achievements are frequently praised by staff. They show some high levels of concentration at activities. However, their flow of play is often interrupted by staff following the routines rigidly, which at times limits their learning. Children are kind and caring towards others as they model how adults behave. They feel safe and secure as they are able to share how they are feeling with kind and caring adults.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Management encourages staff to participate in training and share ideas at regular meetings. As a result, they are beginning to make improvements to their practice. Management and staff take some steps to monitor and assess activities and children's learning. This helps to ensure that children make appropriate progress and enjoy activities. Management has acted on the majority of areas for improvement raised at the last inspection. For example, all records are easily accessible. Staff understand their responsibilities to safeguard children and know the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's welfare. Management gain parents' views and opinions to help evaluate their service and identify plans for improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY372988
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	1001706
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Elaine Rosemary Brown
Date of previous inspection	11 December 2014
Telephone number	0208 856 1994

Bellegrove Playgroup registered in 1960. It is privately owned and managed and operates from a hall in the Methodist Church in Welling, Kent. The playgroup is open each weekday, from 9am to 12 noon, for 38 weeks of the year. The playgroup currently employs five members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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