

Marion Scott Playgroup

C/O Didsbury Baptist Church, Beaver Road, Manchester, M20 6SX



Inspection date

7 July 2015

Previous inspection date

14 June 2010

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

- The quality of teaching is good throughout the playgroup and at times, outstanding. Staff have a very good understanding of the learning and development requirements and how children learn best. As a result, children make consistently good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff provide children with a wide range of interesting and challenging activities which means that they develop into enthusiastic and motivated learners. As a result, children of all ages develop a good range of skills and attitudes that prepare them well for future learning and eventually, school.
- Children develop a particularly good knowledge and understanding of numbers, patterns and measure. This is achieved through precise teaching during planned adult-led activities and good quality staff interaction during children's self-chosen play.
- The well-established key-person system helps children to form strong emotional attachments as staff effectively support them in their play. Consequently, children feel safe and secure in the playgroup environment.
- Staff have a very good knowledge and understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children which is successfully translated into practice. This means that children are well protected and can play and learn in safety.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently obtain the very detailed information they need from parents about children's learning and development before children start at the playgroup.
- On occasions, creative activities are too adult-led and mainly focus on an end product.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the information gathered from parents when children first start at the playgroup to obtain an even clearer picture of children's starting points
- enable children to express their own thoughts and ideas more when participating in creative activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in the playrooms and the outdoor environment.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to key persons, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a planned adult-led activity with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, children's records, risk assessments and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of all staff.
- The inspector discussed the arrangements for self-evaluation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of a parent spoken to on the day of the inspection and from written feedback questionnaires obtained by staff.

Inspector

Julie Kelly

Inspection findings

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

Staff are well qualified and experienced and this has a significantly positive impact on children's learning and development. The environment, both indoors and outdoors, is well resourced and organised to successfully promote children's learning through playing, exploring and being active. Staff encourage children to make independent choices about what they want to do and where they wish to play. For example, children thoroughly enjoy mixing soil and water to make mud pies and cakes outside. Children have a wonderful time as they attentively listen to one of their favourite stories. The effective use of props and puppets brings characters to life and further promotes children's communication and language skills. Consequently, children make good progress in this area of development. Occasionally, creative activities are too adult-led and mainly focus on an end product, rather than the experience. This means that children cannot always express their own thoughts and ideas to enhance their creative development further. Regular exchange of information about children's achievements and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments ensure children's learning is supported at home. However, staff do not always obtain very detailed information from parents about children's learning on entry, in order to have a more accurate picture of children's starting points.

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

Children are very well supported by attentive and caring key persons which successfully promotes their emotional security, confidence and self-esteem. As a result, children are happy, well-settled and soon develop new friendships. Children's physical well-being is promoted effectively because they have plenty of fresh air and exercise through daily activities outdoors. Staff give priority to the safety of children and effectively support their growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy. They are good role models and provide clear guidance to promote positive behaviour. Consequently, children are well behaved and show kindness and respect to others as they play cooperatively together.

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

Staff rigorously follow detailed policies and procedures, and prioritise safeguarding and child protection. All staff hold a relevant qualification at level 3 and this, together with regular training, contributes to the good-quality provision. In addition, staff ensure that they are well informed of changes to legislation and new initiatives, through research and attendance at network meetings that are then successfully implemented in practice. The manager is committed to leading good practice and closely monitors the quality of teaching and learning and staff performance. As a result, children receive good quality care and learning experiences throughout the day. Consistent tracking of children's progress ensures that all children reach their full potential and the achievement gap is narrowing. Robust arrangements to monitor the quality of the provision and to identify targets for improvement means that the playgroup continues to improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY233730
Local authority	Manchester
Inspection number	872533
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Marion Scott Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	14 June 2010
Telephone number	0161 448 7058

Marion Scott Playgroup has been operating for approximately 50 years and registered under this registration in 2003. The playgroup operates term time only from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday and Friday from 9am to 12pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are six members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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