

# Beaminster Playgroup

St. Marys C E Primary School, Clay Lane, BEAMINSTER, Dorset, DT8 3BY



## Inspection date

8 July 2015

Previous inspection date

24 September 2014

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children make good progress. Staff know children well and encourage their learning by providing a very good range of activities and equipment which supports their development effectively.
- Staff use the indoor and extensive outdoor areas well to provide stimulating activities that enhance children's learning experiences. As a result, children are confident, sociable and independent problem solvers.
- Children are well prepared for their move to school. They regularly visit the adjacent school and work alongside the older children. Good quality information is shared with the reception teacher so that she is well informed about what children can do when they arrive in her class.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff and parents exchange information every day which supports a consistent approach to children's care and learning.
- Children communicate well with one another when using the wide range of interesting and exciting activities and toys.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not always support children to work things out for themselves.
- Leaders do not use all information available to them well enough to closely check the progress made by groups of children and whether there are gaps in the curriculum.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure all staff continually challenge children to work things out for themselves to enhance their learning
- implement the planned systems to improve the monitoring of the progress made by groups of children and the curriculum.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including policies, information about the educational programme, children's learning and development records and evidence of checks made on staff.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning both in the playroom and the outside area.

### Inspector

Diane Burt

## Inspection findings

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

Children show high levels of independence and actively engage in a wide range of well-planned learning opportunities. For example, they particularly enjoy a well-resourced outdoor activity which enables them to explore the properties of water. They persevere and concentrate well as they experiment with gutters and different sized containers, fascinated to discover how they can change the flow of the water. Most staff encourage children to solve problems for themselves by asking them relevant questions which make them think. All children are confident with staff and activities are paced well so that children remain focused. Children develop their literacy skills as they have many opportunities to look at books, learn about the sounds that letters make and to practise writing in their play. Staff regularly observe children and assess their progress. This enables them to plan effectively for their next steps in learning. As a result, most children are at a level of development typical for their age and are well prepared for starting school.

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

Children form secure attachments with their key person. They are learning to take responsibility and to be independent. For example, at snack time they help prepare the crackers and fruit for their friends and are responsible for asking staff and visitors what they would like to drink. Children's behaviour is good because knowledgeable staff ensure they are actively engaged in appropriately challenging activities. Children are able to make relevant choices for themselves. They move freely between indoors and outdoors, choosing where they would like to learn. They learn how to keep physically active as very good use is made of the outdoor area, including the school's nature trail.

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

All staff have completed safeguarding training. They are confident about their procedures for keeping children safe and know what to do if there are any concerns. The manager has a good understanding of the progress made by individual children. She is aware that the system to check the progress of groups of children and gaps in the curriculum is not robust and plans to improve how she gathers and uses the information available to her. Staff are supported well. The manager regularly observes staff and provides support so that teaching improves. For example, training provided by the reception teacher from the adjacent school has improved the way in which staff teach children the sounds that letters make. Staff meet regularly with the manager to discuss their work and to check all children are receiving a good experience at the playgroup. Staff work well with other agencies, accessing relevant support for any children who need additional help so that they make good progress and catch up.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY378660
<b>Local authority</b>	Dorset
<b>Inspection number</b>	1003779
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	21
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	48
<b>Name of provider</b>	Beaminster Playgroup Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	24 September 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01308 863959

Beaminster Playgroup was registered at the current premises in 2008. It operates from a dedicated classroom within St Marys Academy School in Beaminster, Dorset. It is managed by a committee. The playgroup is open during term time from 9.00am to 3.30pm. They provide sessional care from 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. The playgroup employs a team of eight staff. All staff hold a level 2, 3 or 4 early years qualification.

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