

Waterbeach Community Playgroup

The Waterbeach Playhouse, High Street, Waterbeach, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire,
CB25 9JU



Inspection date

9 July 2015

Previous inspection date

16 July 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. Attentive staff support and extend children's learning, recognising opportunities to promote their curiosity.
- Children are kept safe because staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children and the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child in their care.
- Children are well prepared for starting school because staff form excellent links with parents and local schools who work closely with the setting.
- Staff build trusting and respectful relationships with children which helps them to feel secure. They listen carefully to them, helping them to understand their feelings.
- The manager is a good role model and effectively motivates the staff to work together as a team.
- Good working relationships with the children's centre and other agencies, ensure children and families receive the support they need.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not ensured children can readily access their favourite story because a very large quantity of books are poorly organised.
- Some activities lack sufficient resources to extend children's play.
- Some activities do not provide sufficient challenge for older, more able children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure the book corner is inviting and organised so that children can easily select their favourite story.
- review the range of activities and resources available to provide more challenge and extend children's play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this had on children's learning both indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at some documentation, including the learning journals used to track children's progress.

Inspector

Linda Cass

Inspection findings

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

Children are engaged and motivated as they confidently lead their own play. However, staff do not prepare the book and home corner so that they are inviting for children. As a result, these areas are under-used. Experienced and well-qualified staff provide a broad range of opportunities to promote children's development and encourage them to be independent learners. Staff ensure the outdoor area provides opportunities for children to use their imagination. However, there is scope for it to be used to its full potential with the provision of additional resources. Children pretend to be builders in the outdoor construction site. They dress-up as Police officers and keep a close eye on the safety of everyone. All staff skilfully extend children's learning by asking open ended questions. Staff accurately identify children's next steps and routinely cover the seven areas of learning when planning activities. Children make good progress in their development; including those with English as an additional language. Staff teach children to count and recognise numbers, and to use mathematical language to talk about shape and size. They have suitable opportunities to develop their early reading and writing skills. However, some activities lack challenge for the more able children.

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

Children are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment. New children settle quickly because staff gather useful information from parents in preparation for their child's transition to playgroup. Children have a strong sense of belonging and confidently interact with each other and visitors to the setting. They shake hands with the inspector and older children delight in showing a visiting school teacher that they can write their own name. Children enjoy preparing their own healthy snack by chopping and peeling fruit and pouring their own drinks. Kind and caring staff successfully support children to share, take turns and play cooperatively. Staffing arrangements are consistent, so children become familiar with staff and form strong attachments.

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

The management team have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager ensures all children and families are valued. Children are taught about other cultures and traditions because the manager encourages items to be brought in from home, such as, traditional food, clothing and photographs. All children show great pride in sharing these items with staff and their peers. Systems to evaluate what is working well and what needs to improve are effective. The management team have successfully addressed the actions arising from the previous inspection. Managers monitor staff closely and provide support and training to improve practise. Effective arrangements for recruiting new staff, for regular supervision and checking staff performance, ensures consistent practice throughout the setting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221774
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1013752
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Waterbeach Community Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2014
Telephone number	01223 440 769

Waterbeach Community Playgroup was registered in 1992 and is on the Early Years Register. It is situated in purpose built premises on the site of Waterbeach Primary School, in the village of Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. It is managed by a management committee of parents. The playgroup serves the local area and is accessible to all children. It operates from self-contained cabin and there are two enclosed areas available for outdoor play. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon or 12.30pm till 15.00pm. The playgroup also runs a lunch club from 12 noon till 12.30pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 46 children attending who are in the early years age group. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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