

St Lawrence Playgroup & Pre-school



St. Lawrence Playgroup and Pre-school, St. Lawrence Church Hall,, Church Street,
ALTON. Hampshire, GU34 2BW

Inspection date	9 September 2015
Previous inspection date	23 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Since the last inspection, the newly appointed manager has worked closely with the playgroup committee and staff to make changes that have improved children's care and learning.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development. The playgroup manager and most staff communicate effectively with children to extend their learning.
- Children are motivated to learn. Staff help children to gain confidence, independence, to learn right from wrong and to respect other people.
- Staff skilfully help new children to settle, feel secure and get involved in activities.
- Children move smoothly on to school because staff communicate effectively with teachers to share information about children's individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although, some positive steps are taken to identify staff training needs and to offer coaching to raise the quality of teaching, the manager and playgroup committee do not rigorously tackle staff underperformance to provide consistently good teaching and learning experiences for children.
- Staff do not always provide additional activities to challenge children's physical development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop a more rigorous approach to tackling any staff underperformance to strengthen continuity in good teaching practice and children's learning and development
- provide children with a wider range of activities that challenge their physical development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision in the outdoor play area.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation, and checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff, the provider's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of parents' views spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Catherine Greenwood

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The new manager fully understands and implements the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She works closely with staff to monitor the success of activities and children's progress. The manager and committee effectively evaluate the playgroup to make improvements. They have met the actions and recommendations made at the last inspection. The manager and committee recognise the need to continue to raise the quality of teaching. In the short time since the manager has been at the playgroup, she has enthusiastically coached and guided staff to make numerous positive changes. For example, the staff make good assessments of children's achievements and have developed their confidence to work in partnership with parents. They now regularly share information with parents about children's ongoing development, which helps staff to plan consistently for children's learning. The manager oversees risk assessments to ensure staff are aware of potential hazards and take action remove or minimise these. The manager and staff know the signs that might give them concern for a child's welfare and how to report these. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their good knowledge of children's individual needs to help them learn. They plan a range of activities and patiently show children how to use the resources. Children learn to use tools to manipulate modelling dough, and use glue sticks and scissors to make collages. Staff promote children's language development by watching, listening and responding to them during their play. Children listen attentively to stories and develop an awareness of sounds and rhythms. They investigate how technology works and express their creativity by making designs using paint and soap bubbles. Children develop a good range of skills in readiness for their future learning, such as starting school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form firm friendships and behave well. Children decorated fish for a display stating, 'We may all be different fish but in this playgroup we swim together'. As a result, children are learning to respect each other and to understand their connection within the playgroup community. Staff talk with children in a positive way about their achievements; they beam with pleasure and demonstrate a sense of pride. Staff promote children's physical well-being well. Since the last inspection, staff have introduced a cafe-style snack and children now enthusiastically try a wide selection of fresh fruit. Children develop independence as they confidently clear away and wash their plates after eating.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development in relation to their starting points. They gain the skills they need to help prepare them for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109848
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	992611
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	St Lawrence Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2014
Telephone number	01420 82442

St Lawrence Playgroup & Pre-school opened in 1974 and registered in 1992. It is located in Alton, Hampshire. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. It is open Monday to Friday during school term time, from 9am to 12 noon. The pre-school employs four staff, including the manager who has an Early Years Foundation Degree. The other three staff hold level 3 early years qualifications.

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