

Whitecrest Pre-School Playgroup

Whitecrest, Great Barr, Birmingham, West Midlands, B43 6HQ



Inspection date

18 September 2015

Previous inspection date

16 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff are very sensitive and highly skilled in promoting children's well-being and helping them to develop confidence. As a result, children settle well. They quickly build relationships with each other and are keen to play and learn.
- Teaching is strong. Staff are particularly successful in helping children to concentrate and listen, follow instructions and speak in small groups. The varied and stimulating range of activities contributes to foster children's desire to explore and be inquisitive.
- Established and effective partnership working with staff within the school, where the playgroup is based, results in children making a confident move.
- The manager and staff continually look for ways to strengthen their practice. They seek and act upon the views of parents, children and other professionals, and make good use best practice guidance. Consequently, children receive good quality care and learning experiences.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not been as successful in inspiring some boys' interest in making marks for a purpose.
- Staff are not always as quick as they could be to obtain information from other providers and parents about what children know and can do when they first start.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- inspire all boys to make marks for a purpose and improve their literacy skills
- obtain information about what children know and can do more swiftly from other providers and parents and make sure that they are helped to make the best progress right from the start.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and school staff during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, a record of staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures, and monitoring records.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager is well qualified, very experienced and successful in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, safeguarding arrangements are effective. Robust risk assessments are undertaken which contribute to children being kept safe at all times. Staff receive ongoing training to make sure they have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. The manager seeks and acts upon guidance from school staff which helps her to continually improve the quality of teaching. She has detailed information about the good progress individuals make and the progress of different groups of children. She is effective in recognising and addressing gaps in individual children's learning. She is aware some boys are not making the very good progress that other children are making in relation to their writing skills. Plans to address this are still being developed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are fun, playful and enthusiastic. They motivate all children to become active and involved in play and learning. They plan a range of activities and experiences that extend and enhance children's learning. Children especially enjoy the regular visits from musicians and gardeners. Staff get to know children's needs well and use this information to extend their learning. However, staff do not always obtain children's starting points as quickly as they could. Therefore, children's next steps in learning are not identified and as highly promoted right from the start. Children who speak English as an additional language make good progress. They benefit from the rich language environment that staff create. Parents receive good quality guidance about how they can extend their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work very effectively with parents to provide children with a range of experiences to learn about and respect their cultural differences. Staff consistently model good behaviour and help children to contribute positively to the setting. Children quickly learn and follow the rules and codes of behaviour that help to keep them safe. For example, they all hold hands to walk together and look out for cars on the way to the outdoor play area. The variety of challenging outdoor activities helps children to develop good physical skills and begin to learn to manage risks and challenges safely.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are developing the skills they need for school. They become familiar and confident to take part in some of the routines of school. For example, children experience lunchtime and take part in physical education sessions in the school hall. They learn to link sounds to letters and recognise simple words. Children learn to express their thoughts and feelings and to use their senses to explore and experiment. Children's mathematical skills are developing well. They count numbers using their fingers and complete simple calculations. They are eager to talk about the shapes and colours they see.

Setting details

Unique reference number	255213
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	866938
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	Whitecrest Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2011
Telephone number	0121 358 6348

Whitecrest Pre-School Playgroup was registered in 1991. The pre-school employs four members of staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, term time. Sessions are from 8.35am until 11.35am. The pre-school supports children who speak English as an additional language. It provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

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