

Weymouth St Playschool

Christchurch Hall, Upper Marsh Road, Warminster, BA12 9NP



Inspection date

6 October 2015

Previous inspection date

31 March 2011

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider has not notified Ofsted of changes in committee members and does not keep their records of suitability available for inspection.
- Some activities, such as those organised for the whole group, do not always support the needs of all children. This means they sometimes become restless and lose concentration.
- Staff do not always make the most of daily opportunities for children to solve simple practical problems and develop their mathematical skills.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are very caring at this friendly playschool. They provide a reassuring approach, which helps children feel settled and promotes their emotional well-being.
- Staff create inviting play areas, which children are keen to investigate. Staff ask children questions that help them think and extend their ideas. Consequently, children are well motivated to learn and teaching helps them to make good progress.
- Management and staff are reflective of their practice and regularly evaluate and monitor children's play and learning. This helps them to make improvements to the playschool and outcomes for children, ensuring gaps in learning are swiftly closed.
- Staff extend children's learning through the questions they ask that challenge children's thinking. This contributes to children becoming confident talkers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ ensure all required records are made available for inspection	06/11/2015
■ ensure Ofsted is notified of changes to committee members.	06/11/2015

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

- review the planning of activities to engage all children's interest and develop their concentration more effectively
- make more use of opportunities to encourage children to solve simple practical problems and develop their mathematical awareness further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as operational policies and procedures and required records, including those relating to suitability.
- The inspector had discussions with management and staff, and took into account the views of parents spoken with at the visit.
- The inspector viewed the playschool's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.

Inspector

Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The provider does not have a full understanding of all requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand child protection issues and procedures to follow if there is any concern about a child. This protects children's welfare. However, the provider has not informed Ofsted of changes in the management committee so that required suitability checks can be made. In addition, some relevant records relating to the committee were not available for inspection. Nevertheless, this does not significantly compromise children's care as the committee does not work directly with them. In addition, there are clear recruitment processes for checking staff suitability. Staff complete induction and are supported further in their roles through identified training. The manager has completed courses on children's specific educational needs and shares this knowledge with staff. This has developed their knowledge of how to support the individual needs of every child. Parents state that staff keep them well informed of their child's activities and felt they enjoyed their play. Staff understand the importance of working with other providers involved in children's care and learning. This promotes a consistent approach.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are qualified and experienced. They understand children's development and plan activities that effectively support children's interests and learning. For example, children have great fun banging drums and shaking tambourines very loudly and then very quietly. They learn more about opposites as they talk about night and day and what they see when it is light or dark. Staff promote children's communication very well through lots of discussion and reinforcement of words. Children enjoy listening to stories and recall familiar events well. They join in enthusiastically with counting songs and understand numbers of personal significance, such as their age.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff encourage children to be kind and respect others. Staff praise them for their efforts, which actively boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Staff promote children's physical health well. For instance, children eagerly jump on the small trampoline and balance on colourful stepping stones. Staff take children on local walks, such as to collect blackberries. Children enjoy healthy snacks and help to dig, plant and water herbs and strawberries. Staff talk to children about crossing roads and using equipment safely, which helps children keep safe. However, some systems do not fully ensure children's welfare.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop an active curiosity in learning and show good concentration in the activities they choose. Staff help children gain positive personal, social and independence skills in preparation for their move to school. Consequently, outcomes are promoted well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	145872
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	836716
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Weymouth St Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2011
Telephone number	07714 7322344

Weymouth St Playschool was established more than thirty years ago and registered in 1993. It is run by a parent committee and operates in Warminster, Wiltshire. The playschool is open each weekday during school term times from 8.45am to 11.45am, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.45am to 2.45pm. The playschool receives funding to provide early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The playschool employs an overall manager and four staff. Of these, two staff hold qualifications at level 3 and two hold qualifications at level 2.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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