

Linden Playgroup

St Cuthberts Church, Linden Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, West yorkshire, HD2 2TP



Inspection date

6 October 2015

Previous inspection date

3 February 2015

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

- The manager and staff have effective relationships with other professionals, agencies and local schools. These result in well-coordinated strategies that promote the good progress of all children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs.
- Parents speak highly of the staff and the service that they provide. Parents report that their children's social development, and communication and language skills have improved since attending the playgroup.
- Staff make good use of the opportunities for outdoor learning. They plan effectively for all areas of learning to ensure children with a preference for outdoor learning have the opportunities they need.
- Staff provide an exciting and well-resourced environment that promotes children's learning and independence well.
- Children settle quickly and are happy because staff are kind and encouraging, helping children to grow in confidence and to feel valued.
- Staff provide an abundance of opportunities for children to learn about people's differences and similarities, and encourage them to respect and value other's beliefs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always support children in exploring their own ideas and thoughts, in order to help them make links in their learning.
- Staff do not always accurately link the next steps in children's learning to the planned activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage children to explore their own ideas and make links in their learning
- make better use of the identified next steps in children's learning when planning activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of adults in the setting.
- The inspector took the views of parents into account.

Inspector

Helene Terry

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children are protected as management and staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities to safeguard and promote children's welfare. Staff frequently reflect on their practice. Supervision is successfully used to decide on appropriate training. This helps improve teaching skills to enhance the learning outcomes for children. The programme of continuous professional development is effective and some staff are studying to achieve higher-level qualifications. Management demonstrate their clear capacity to bring about improvements through continuous monitoring and evaluation. Children's achievements are monitored well. Any gaps in development that are identified are swiftly closed through targeted intervention.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff get to know children well through regular observations and assessment of their development. They use children's developing interests to plan the activities so that children are interested and motivated to learn. However, staff do not always effectively incorporate the next steps in children's development into planned activities. Therefore, progress is good rather than outstanding. Children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted well. Staff help children develop their independence by giving them little tasks to do. Staff interact well with children as they play. However, occasionally staff move on too quickly. At times they do not pick up on children's ideas, and do not prompt children to think and explore their own thoughts.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There is a strong key-person system in place. This allows the staff to get to know children well and give them plenty of attention to help children feel welcome and valued. Staff are good role models. They explain what is acceptable behaviour so that children behave well. Staff ensure children's transition to school is smooth. They have good links with the local schools. Staff promote children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle effectively. Children learn about food that is good for them. They help staff plant and grow herbs and vegetables in the garden. Children have daily opportunities to play energetically outdoors in the fresh air to keep them fit and healthy. They learn how to keep themselves safe through activities. For example, they build confidence as they take supervised risks when they climb and balance on apparatus.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. Although, many of the children's starting points are well below that expected for their age, they catch up fast. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported exceptionally well. Bilingual staff speak with children in English then translate into the child's home language. This helps their understanding. Staff also use a language intervention programme, with parents support, so that children have the skills they need in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	311275
Local authority	Kirklees
Inspection number	1006223
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Linden Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2015
Telephone number	07985 233096

Linden Playgroup was registered in 1993. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. One member of staff has a foundation degree in early years and the manager is working towards a relevant degree. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The playgroup supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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