

Busy Builders

Shaw Memorial Hall, Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 5PW



Inspection date

20 October 2015

Previous inspection date

30 November 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 provide a stimulating, challenging and welcoming environment. Children benefit from a wide range of learning experiences which are based on their individual needs and interests.
- Staff promote children's independence well. They provide lots of opportunities for children to make choices and attend to their personal care needs. This helps to support children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The manager implements effective systems for monitoring the quality of teaching, planning and assessment. This includes monitoring the progress of individual and groups of children. This helps to identify gaps in children's development.
- The well-qualified manager has high expectations for the pre-school. Effective self-evaluation includes the views of staff, children and parents and is used to improve outcomes for children.
- The manager and staff have developed strong links with other settings, including local schools. Effective partnerships help to prepare children as they move on to their next stage of learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not give children opportunities to develop their ability to think for themselves.
- Staff do not always provide a consistent approach to help children learn what is expected of them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- allow children more time to think and explore their own ideas
- improve staff consistency in helping children to learn what is expected of them and to follow ground rules.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and spoke to children and staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including children's records, attendance registers, policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working at the pre-school.

Inspector

Nicola Chambers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend regular training and understand their role in protecting children from harm. They are knowledgeable about the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children's welfare. Staff complete regular risk assessments to help ensure the environment is safe and secure. Thorough recruitment and vetting processes help to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The manager and staff effectively evaluate children's progress and plan to support future development. For example, staff strengthen children's mathematical development by adding more resources to enhance their learning experiences. The manager and staff have close links with other professionals, which enable staff to attend regular training and share ideas during collaboration meetings. Staff use their knowledge to improve practice and develop ideas to promote children's learning. Staff establish good partnership with parents. They work effectively with parents to promote their children's learning between home and the pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They plan activities that inspire children to investigate and learn. Children practise their mathematical skills as they count and sort objects according to shape and size when they build models with play dough. Children learn about the world in which they live when they grow vegetables, celebrate festivals and learn about different cultures. They develop good communication and language skills. For example, staff make good use of conversation and discussion to help extend children's vocabulary. Staff make accurate assessments of children's achievements and identify next steps to help them make good progress in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are good role models. Overall, children behave well; they play happily together and learn to share and take turns. Staff offer consistent praise and children take pride in their achievements. Staff effectively promote children's health and well-being. They supervise them well and help children learn how to manage risks, for example, when they use climbing and balancing equipment. Children enjoy daily fresh air and enjoy going on local outings. These help them develop their understanding of the wider community. Children have good opportunities to develop their personal and independence skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff provide a welcoming and highly stimulating environment for children to learn. Children are confident, happy and settled. They make good progress in relation to their starting points and develop the skills they need for their next stage in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103793
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	824733
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	Busy Builders Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	30 November 2009
Telephone number	01634850928 and 07814568812

Busy Builders registered in 1990. The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Of these, the manager holds Early Years Professional Status, and five staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, from 9.15am to 12.15pm, during term time. The pre-school provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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