Eastington Playgroup



Inspection date 3 November 2015 Previous inspection date 15 November 2011

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide high-quality play opportunities that reflect children's interests. Resources are stimulating and exciting and suit the needs of all children. This ensures children play well together, are highly motivated and enjoy attending the playgroup.
- Staff deploy themselves well throughout the playrooms and outdoors. They make considerable effort to ensure all children are engaged in play and feel supported.
- Staff are excellent role models who use praise and encouragement throughout the activities, enabling children to develop high levels of self-esteem and confidence.
- Experienced staff complete regular and precise assessments of children and use these effectively to plan suitably challenging activities.
- Excellent partnerships with parents and other shared settings ensure children's individual needs are thoroughly met. Consequently, children develop a very strong sense of belonging.
- Leaders and management show a strong understanding of requirements and oversee robust safety procedures. Staff are knowledgeable about the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection concerns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the manager has an accurate understanding of children's skills overall, there are missed opportunities to track the progress of particular groups of children.
- Occasionally, staff miss some learning opportunities to promote children's understanding of sounds and letters.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen and embed the assessment for monitoring groups of learners to target the drive for improvement even more closely
- strengthen children's understanding of letters and sounds to develop their early literacy skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children, and the impact these have on children's learning in the playroom and outdoors.
- The inspector invited the manager to carry out a joint observation.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records, staff planning, risk assessments, policies and recruitment procedures.
- The inspector held discussions with a committee member, the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability to work with children, and their qualifications.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management has an excellent knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, and their responsibility to keep children safe. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff demonstrate a high commitment to partnership working with parents, external agencies and other providers. The manager regularly seeks the views of parents about the learning they provide for their children. This enables the staff team to make positive changes and to continue to improve practice further. Staff constantly seek to improve their knowledge; they receive good support and guidance from management, and are able to access training and research ideas. Parents speak extremely positively about the playgroup.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is consistently good and some is outstanding. Children develop extremely well in their communication and language development; staff are highly skilled and have a sharp focus on talking to children and asking questions to help them think and problem solve. Children develop their personal, social and emotional skills very well. Staff teach them that they need to be careful of other children as they play. For example, when children used water pistols to spray numbers on a wall, staff reminded them to be careful of the younger children as they may not like it. Children develop their understanding of the world around them, for example, as they explore in the outdoor area and the playgroup allotment. They talk about why there is no sun in the sky, where caterpillars go in the autumn, and learn about capacity as they dig in the soil and add water to make a cookie mixture. Children are very motivated and eager to learn.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are very happy and settled in this nurturing playgroup. Staff are highly responsive to the children and sensitively meet all their care needs. They work very closely with parents to ensure their children's routines are followed, which means children's continuity of care is strongly supported. Children's healthy lifestyles are positively promoted. They have a wealth of opportunities to be active and take part in physical play outdoors or at the allotment. Staff follow excellent procedures to keep children safe and are very skilled at developing children's understanding of how to assess dangers and manage risks for themselves. Children are developing a wide range of skills for the future in readiness for the next stage in their learning, such as moving on to nursery or school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress relative to their starting points. They learn to take responsibility and be independent, for example by hanging up their own coats and putting on wet weather suits to play in the allotment.

Setting details

Unique reference number 101782

Local authority Gloucestershire

Inspection number 824671

Type of provision Sessional provision

Day care typeChildcare - Non-Domestic

Age range of children 2 - 5

Total number of places 30

Number of children on roll 31

Name of provider Eastington Playgroup Committee

Date of previous inspection 15 November 2011

Telephone number 07977342742

Eastington Playgroup registered in 1998. It is based in the village of Eastington, near Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. It is run by a management committee of parents. The playgroup opens four days a week during term time. Sessions run on Mondays to Thursdays from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs four members of staff, of whom two hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. In addition, one member of staff holds Early Years Professional Status.

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