

St Michaels Playgroup

St Michaels Playgroup, Roding Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3EJ



Inspection date

24 November 2015

Previous inspection date

23 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	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 management team is ambitious and communicates high expectations to all. Actions taken to improve the quality of provision have been effective.
- Partnerships are a key strength. Staff establish strong and trusting partnerships with parents. They work closely with parents and other professionals to support children's individual care, development and learning needs.
- Staff provide a good variety of interesting and stimulating activities, indoors and outdoors, to promote children's good progress in all areas of learning.
- Staff build warm relationships with children. They know the children well and form strong bonds with each one. As a result, children demonstrate that they are happy, confident and feel secure in the playgroup.
- Staff work effectively as a team. They are well deployed, indoors and outdoors, ensuring children's safety and supporting them in their play and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are fewer resources and activities that reflect and value the diversity of children's backgrounds and experiences.
- At times, daily routines do not always support opportunities for children to lead their own play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend ways of supporting children's growing understanding of family, the community and the wider world to broaden children's knowledge and reflect an inclusive ethos
- review the organisation of routines, such as group activities, so that children's opportunities for sustained play are further encouraged.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the playgroup's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures and are aware of their responsibilities in this respect. The management team is ambitious and communicates high expectations to the staff team. Actions taken to improve the quality of provision since the previous inspection have been concerted and effective. The manager monitors staff performance both informally through working alongside the staff and more formally through annual appraisals. Staff are supported to attend relevant courses and gain additional qualifications to further promote effective outcomes for children. The playgroup forms successful links with local schools in order to support children's future move to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children demonstrate a positive approach to learning, supported by the cheerful interactions of the staff team caring for them. Talking is a consistently strong aspect of the playgroup. Children successfully develop their spoken language as staff interact sensitively with the children at their own level, asking meaningful, open questions to skilfully challenge and extend their learning. Staff organise the playrooms and plan activities to ensure that every child enjoys exciting learning and development experiences that meet their individual needs. Staff make effective use of observations to plan and provide relevant experiences to meet the individual learning and development needs of all children. As a result, children are gaining skills which help prepare them for their next stage of learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emerging understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle that involves physical exercise and a healthy diet. Children play outside regularly and the outdoor area promotes children's developing physical skills and confidence. At snack time, staff support children to make their selection from the snacks offered. This is one of the many ways that staff promote children's emerging independence skills. Staff provide excellent role models and interact well with children. Consequently, behaviour is good and there is an extremely calm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere at the playgroup. Attentive staff play alongside the children, offering gentle support and encouragement. However, at times, the routines of the playgroup are not sufficiently flexible to fully support opportunities for children to lead their own play. For example, staff interrupt children's play mid-session for an adult-led group time. Consequently, children are not always given sufficient time to develop their own ideas and become fully engaged in their play.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. Staff support children to gain a range of skills that helps to prepare children for the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361446
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1027869
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	St Michaels Playgroup Partnership
Date of previous inspection	23 October 2012
Telephone number	07850362336

St Michaels Playgroup was registered in 2007. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The playgroup opens Monday to Thursday during school term times. Sessions on Monday are from 8.30am until 2.30pm. On Tuesday to Thursday sessions are from 8.30am until 3pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

