

Platform 3 Pre-School Playgroup

Manor Field Primary School, Junction Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0PZ



Inspection date	26 November 2015
Previous inspection date	18 July 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 effectively develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world. They use their play ideas as a basis for activities. For example, staff extend children's interest in the stains made on their hands by vegetables into a creative activity where they can make marks on paper with wedges of butternut squash.
- Children develop strong language and literacy skills. Staff provide plenty of opportunities for them to practise what they can do. For example, staff read with children and help them to use their imagination as they make up stories together. In addition, staff encourage children to write as part of their games.
- Staff are very good role models and have high expectations of children's behaviour. Children are polite and learn to take turns and share with friends. Staff teach them to respect the opinions of others and so the atmosphere is calm and friendly as they play.
- Managers use robust systems for monitoring and checking children's progress. This helps them to identify any potential gaps in learning swiftly and create plans to address any concerns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff plan and present activities for children that are enticing and encourage their involvement, staff do not always encourage children to support others to share their learning experiences.
- Staff do not always use appropriate hygiene methods when helping children who have coughs and colds. Consequently, children are not always protected from germs effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop children's understanding of how they can use a variety of ways to enhance their enjoyment of activities and help others to have the same positive experiences
- review current systems so that staff promote good hygiene practice at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the pre-school deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection and took account of what they said.
- The inspector observed activities in all play areas used by children.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including pre-school policies and procedures, staff records and children's learning journals.

Inspector

Rebecca Swindells

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers have a robust recruitment procedure which they use to ensure that staff are well-qualified and suitable to work with children. They work alongside staff, coaching them to improve their practice. They identify areas where staff would benefit from training and arrange this to enable them to develop. Managers think critically about how they can make the pre-school the best it can be and encourage others to share their views. Staff are confident to make suggestions and managers make changes to practice, which means that the pre-school gets better over time. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have regular child protection training and are confident to record and report any concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide resources and activities indoors and outdoors, which are clearly labelled and easily accessible. Children make choices about where and how they play. Key persons use what they know about their key children to plan ways of helping them. Staff share planning ideas together and children benefit from everyone knowing what they are working on. The quality of teaching is good. Staff are confident practitioners who use their understanding of how children learn to ensure that everyone makes good progress. They join in readily with children's games and understand when to play alongside, when to lead games and when to challenge children's learning with new information and ideas. For example, staff introduce mathematical concepts and number recognition as they help children who are playing with mathematical equipment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy caring relationships with staff. Staff work closely in partnership with parents, using information from them to enhance their own observations. Key persons know their key children very well and understand what they need to help them progress. Children work well together on joint projects. They take turns with resources and tackle tricky problems together, for example, as they make a large robot out of found objects. Children who are struggling to stick items using glue are supported by other children, who have found sticky tape to be more effective. Staff encourage children's independence by giving choices about the activities and resources. This gives children confidence and prepares them well for school. Staff work closely with teachers, sharing information so that they understand what children need to help them settle quickly at school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make at least typical progress for their age, based on their starting points. They develop good social skills, independence and confidence. Staff promptly identify those who need additional help and support them effectively to make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443287
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	986861
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Platform Three Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 July 2012
Telephone number	07759 211119

Platform 3 Pre-School Playgroup has been operating since 1992 and registered in its current setting in 2012. The setting operates from Manor Field Primary School, in Burgess Hill. The pre-school is open five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 1pm Monday and Wednesday, 9am to 3pm Tuesday and Thursday, and 9am to 12 noon on Friday. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early years education to children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs eight members of staff and all have early years qualifications at level 3.

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