

Hardwicke Playgroup

Hardwicke Village Hall, Green Lane, Hardwicke, Gloucester, GL2 4QA



Inspection date

2 December 2015

Previous inspection date

1 July 2011

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

- Detailed information from parents when children start, and the warm approach from staff, helps children to settle quickly and feel safe and secure. Children form secure attachments and bonds with their key person and enjoy coming to playgroup.
- The quality of teaching is good overall. Staff observe children while they play and demonstrate a good knowledge of each child's interests and learning needs. This supports children to become confident and inquisitive learners and to make continued good progress. Children are well prepared for school or the next stage in their learning.
- Staff make sure that children are well protected from harm. They demonstrate a robust understanding of their responsibility with regards to safeguarding children and diligently supervise them so that they remain safe.
- The management team is committed to continuous improvement for children and staff. Good schemes are in place to ensure this. Children, families and staff help to monitor the quality of the playgroup.
- Parents speak highly of the friendly, caring staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use group times and the outdoor area in ways that support children's learning fully.
- There are missed opportunities to use information gained from tracking the progress that particular groups of children make to further support the playgroup's self-evaluation and set targets for improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- arrange group activities and the outdoor area in ways that support children's learning fully
- use information about the progress of particular groups of learners to inform self-assessment and the action plan to help set targets for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children, and the impact these have on children's learning, in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records, staff planning, accident and incident records, risk assessments, policies and recruitment procedures.
- The inspector held discussions with the chair of the committee, 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

Leaders and staff have a secure knowledge of how to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Robust risk assessments are undertaken which contribute to children being kept safe at all times. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, including the procedures for reporting these in order to protect children from harm. The committee and staff team reflect regularly on the quality of the provision for children and their families. Staff checks for evaluating what is working and what needs to improve are effective. For instance, plans are in place to improve the outdoor learning environment for younger children. Strong partnerships with parents, the local playgroup and school, childminders and other settings children attend help maintain continuity for children, so they make good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff help all children, irrespective of age or ability, to develop their skills through play. They plan good opportunities for children to undertake creative, literacy and early maths activities. Children have good opportunities to explore a wide range of resources and become completely absorbed in their play. For example, at the inspection, children enjoyed investigating how well toy cars would speed down a pipe and then make marks through a random collection of seasonal, sparkly material. Staff's knowledge, qualifications and ongoing training have a positive impact on their practice and improve children's learning and development, including for children with particular needs. For instance, following specific training for two-year-olds, staff have a very good understanding of how young children learn, and know the requirements of the progress check for two-year-olds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop secure and positive attachments with the friendly, caring staff. Children ask staff to join in with their play and spontaneously share conversations and cuddles. Children regulate their behaviour well as they demonstrate a secure understanding of how to keep themselves safe indoors and outdoors. For example, older children remind younger children to slow down when running indoors. The effectiveness of care practices is very good and children's emotional well-being is promoted well. Children are self-motivated and there are many opportunities for them to develop their independence. Younger children quickly become secure, building friendships and making choices in their play. Older children learn to manage their personal needs independently to support their future learning. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, or starting school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points. Staff ensure that children develop the key skills they need for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101511
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	835608
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Hardwicke Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 July 2011
Telephone number	07724139217

Hardwicke Playgroup registered in 1980. It is run by a voluntary management committee made up of parents and members of the community. It operates from the village hall in Hardwicke, Gloucestershire. The playgroup is open during term time on a Monday from 9.15am to 2.45pm and from Tuesday to Thursday from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The playgroup employs six members of staff working directly with the children; of these, four hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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