

St Gabriel's Playgroup

St Gabriel's Hall, East Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9QH



Inspection date

1 December 2015

Previous inspection date

16 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Since the last inspection, the manager has worked effectively with the staff team and the playgroup committee to significantly improve the overall quality of the provision. This has had a beneficial impact on children's learning and development. All children now make good progress in readiness for their next steps in learning.
- Staff work effectively in partnership with parents to involve them in children's learning and development, which provides children with good continuity.
- Staff use their good knowledge of children's individual needs to plan activities which extend their learning and successfully reduce any gaps in their development.
- Children are well behaved, confident, enjoy learning and concentrate very well during activities.
- Staff fully value children's involvement in planning and constantly seek their ideas for activities and events. For example, they create 'voting stations' for children to choose songs for the annual Christmas Nativity play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make effective use of opportunities to extend children's interest in learning to read, and to write their name and other words.
- Children do not have many opportunities to learn how things work, including through using technology, to develop further their understanding of the world around them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use children's interests to further develop their early reading and writing skills
- increase opportunities for children to explore technology and learn how things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision in the outdoor play area.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation.
- The inspector took account of parents' views spoken to on the day of the inspection and from documentation.

Inspector

Catherine Greenwood

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff constantly review their practice to identify and reduce potential safety hazards. For example, they ensure that temporary barriers are in place to secure the area before children play outdoors. The manager effectively coaches staff to support their professional development. Children's progress and activities are closely monitored. The manager has a good knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities. Self-evaluation is good and all actions raised at the last inspection have been fully met. All staff have attended a wide variety of training that has enabled them to significantly improve their practice. They now promote children's language development and encourage children to use their home languages successfully. They have improved the use of assessments to aid successful planning. Staff are better deployed and support children's learning well. There has been a marked improvement in the way staff manage children's behaviour, and partnership working is now successful. These improvements have made a significant difference to outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well. They join in children's play and constantly encourage them to express their thoughts and ideas. Children are motivated, confidently make decisions and use their imagination. For example, they made carrots from modelling dough and pretended to cook them in the home corner. Children collect and explore items on an outdoor 'discovery table', and enjoy acting out stories. Staff organise large group activities that provide children with good challenge; for example, music and movement sessions. Children enjoy using scissors, glue, paper and pens to create detailed pictures of members of their family. Staff encourage children to choose activities and engage with them in a positive way to extend their learning and development. They work effectively with parents to seek the involvement of other agencies to support children who have special educational needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form secure emotional attachments with staff and other children. Staff are good role models for children, particularly in relation to their positive communication. Children have good self-help skills. Most of them can dress themselves by the time they go to school. Children's physical well-being is promoted well. Staff plan activities that help children understand about the importance of healthy eating. For example, children cut out pictures of food they like and dislike to make displays.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. They successfully develop the skills they need for their future and for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113717
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1022715
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	50
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	St Gabriel's Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2015
Telephone number	01403784828

St Gabriel's Playgroup registered in 1999. It is located in Billingshurst, West Sussex. The playgroup is open during term times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 4pm, and on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12.30pm. The playgroup receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. It also receives early years pupil premium funding. There are six members of staff; of these, five have appropriate childcare qualifications.

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