

St John's Playgroup

St John's Church Hall, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 3DP



Inspection date

4 December 2015

Previous inspection date

16 April 2013

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

- Teaching is good. Staff assess children's development to identify what they already know and can do, and plan appropriate and engaging activities to encourage further development across the areas of learning.
- Children are motivated, active learners who are eager to participate in activities. They make good progress in their learning and development and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including school.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are positive about the impact that the playgroup has on their children's development. Parents are asked to contribute to their children's assessment by sharing their knowledge of what their children know and can do.
- Children's individual care routines are identified and met. Older children are supported and encouraged to meet their own care needs, to promote further learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not yet fully evaluated the progress made by different groups of children.
- Opportunities for children to share and develop their own ideas and to solve their own simple problems are missed.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- evaluate the progress of different groups of children and use the information gained to ensure that gaps in children's learning are quickly closed
- ensure that children are provided with opportunities to share and develop their own ideas and to solve their own simple problems.

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 manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and a range of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Katharine Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders and managers promote continuous improvement and support staff to undertake professional development. The skills of the qualified teacher are used well to improve the quality of practice and have a positive impact on children's outcomes. Children are supported well in their preparation for school. Children who are leaving for school in the following year attend playgroup for an extra session each Friday. This provides further opportunities to spend time together and develop the social and emotional skills required for school. The arrangements for safeguarding children are effective. Staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child. Checks and monitoring are in place to ensure that the premises are suitable and that children can access resources safely. There is a wide range of policies and procedures in place which reflect the practice of the playgroup. Parents and children are consulted about the playgroup improvement plans.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are particularly skilled in developing children's communication and language skills. They fully explain as they play alongside children. Children enjoy seeing their own ideas for activities introduced and learn key skills while exploring. They concentrate for extended periods of time while they wrap their own gifts and develop their literacy skills as they write the name of the recipient on the label. Children learn to take turns and spend time together as they decorate the tree independently of adults. Mathematical concepts are introduced through play and exploration. Numbers and mathematical words are used and practised as a small group of children make scented dough. Staff extend learning opportunities for children and support them in developing their skills together. This helps children to be highly engaged in their learning and make good progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have good relationships with staff and have the opportunity to choose their own key person. This helps children to make strong relationships with the adults. Children demonstrate that they are happy and settled. Children are confident to explore, try things for themselves and make new friendships. They are beginning to learn about similarities and differences and developing empathy for others. Children have opportunities to learn in many different ways and embrace the range of opportunities available to them. Behaviour is managed well. When there are issues, staff address these promptly and calmly. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices and to develop their self-help skills during the routines of the day. For example, they spread cheese on their crackers, chop their own cucumber and wash their own hands at snack time. This helps children to learn about making safe and healthy choices.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are developing well and some children are developing beyond expectations. Parents, staff and other agencies work together to support children who may have lower starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	400351
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	1028008
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	St John's Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2013
Telephone number	01423506152

St John's Playgroup was registered in 1992. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Qualified Teacher Status. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 11.45am and two afternoon sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 3pm and a lunch session on Fridays. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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