

Hethersett Pre-School Playgroup

Hethersett Woodside School, Firs Road, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3EQ



Inspection date

8 December 2015

Previous inspection date

2 December 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are extremely keen and motivated to learn. They thoroughly enjoy their time in this highly stimulating environment. Staff are highly knowledgeable about children's individual needs and current stage of development. High-quality and clearly focused planning enables all children to make excellent progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff are excellent role models. They talk to children in a calm and respectful manner. This helps children to behave very well and be able to manage their own feelings.
- Children are supported extremely well to develop a growing understanding of how to manage risks safely. They tackle new challenges with confidence and self-assurance.
- The outside area provides children with a wealth of learning experiences. Children's physical development is promoted very well. Children delight in exploring and testing out their ideas before excitedly sharing their findings with staff and other children.
- Excellent partnerships with parents and other professionals help to identify children's individual needs quickly and ensure that these are exceptionally well met.
- Assessment of children's abilities is rigorous and robust. Staff make thorough observations of children's engagement in activities. Their progress is individually tracked very regularly and achievements between different groups of children are carefully checked. Identified extra support and highly effective interactions help to considerably enhance children's rate of progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to explore professional development opportunities to sustain excellence in practice and teaching skills.

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 pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The extremely enthusiastic and inspirational manager has high expectations of herself, children and staff. Highly effective arrangements for regular and reflective supervision and checking staff performance lead to a high level of consistency in practice. There are extensive opportunities for professional development. Staff are committed to ongoing training to help ensure that they are able to sustain the excellent practice. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are very well trained and know how to respond to any concerns about children's welfare. Ongoing suitability of staff is regularly checked. Robust procedures for checking the quality of the provision ensure that children receive a rich and challenging range of activities. There is ongoing evaluation of the pre-school. Views of staff, children and parents are highly valued and included in the evaluation process. Continuous targets are set and reviewed to maintain the high standards. For example, staff have recently identified a need to improve the outside learning environment, which has improved learning opportunities for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The highly motivated and qualified team has an excellent understanding of how children learn. Staff use their expertise and knowledge to provide an excellent range of interesting learning opportunities. Children's communication and language skills are supported exceptionally well. Inspired storytelling by staff superbly captures children's attention as they use props to bring the story to life. The skilful delivery engages children and creates a real feeling of excitement about what is about to happen next. Staff use highly effective strategies to share ongoing information about children's interests and achievements with parents. They provide ideas for activities to support children's learning at home. This helps to enhance children's learning even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

An exceptionally well-established key-person system enables children to form strong, secure emotional attachments. Staff's knowledge of their key children and their commitment to nurturing the well-being of every child in their care are outstanding. They gather information about each child, which allows staff to know precisely how to meet children's individual needs and to gain support early if required. Parents praise staff for their commitment and vocational approach to their work. Children are well settled, happy and confident in this high-quality, homely and nurturing environment. Children confidently manage their own personal hygiene routines and are developing their independence skills as they wash their hands, pour their drinks and select snacks. This helps children develop their skills in readiness for school. Staff plan the environment so that it is rich in print, books and pictures, to help children's early literacy skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children's early writing skills are developing extremely well. Staff build upon children's ideas to provide meaningful opportunities for children to record things, such as making lists for Santa. Children are extremely well prepared for the next stage in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361501
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	849624
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Hethersett Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 December 2008
Telephone number	07887895406

Hethersett Pre-school Playgroup was registered in 1967. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one who holds Qualified Teacher Status. The pre-school opens term time only. Sessions are from 9.10am until 1.10pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9.10am to 12.10pm on Wednesdays. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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