

Buckingham Playgroup

Scout Hut, Eastern Avenue, SHOREHAM, BN43 6PE



Inspection date	16 March 2016
Previous inspection date	11 February 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

- Children benefit from a well-thought-out environment. Staff make good use of the space available indoors and outside. Children easily choose from a wide variety of exciting resources and activities that engage and inspire them.
- Staff carefully plan stimulating experiences for children based on thorough assessments of their achievements, interests and needs. Children join in enthusiastically and are motivated to learn. They make good progress in their development.
- Disabled children and those with special educational needs receive sensitive support and settle well. Staff work closely in partnerships with other professionals so that children effectively experience a consistent approach.
- Staff keep parents well informed and successfully involve them in their children's learning. For example, they invite them to regular reviews and offer suggestions for activities to continue children's learning at home.
- The manager and staff team work well together. They are highly motivated to continually improve the quality of the provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Overall, the manager monitors staff performance well. However, opportunities for reflection and coaching to further strengthen staff practice are not fully developed.
- Sometimes group activities are too large and are not always well-planned to engage all children. Some children become distracted and do not fully benefit from these activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the arrangements for supporting the ongoing professional development of staff to further enhance the good quality of teaching
- review the organisation and planning of large-group activities to ensure all children are well supported and more fully engaged.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children taking part in activities inside and outside.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager, members of staff and the nominated person about their practice and about children's learning and development.
- The inspector sampled paperwork, including staff records and children's files.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and read letters and questionnaires to take account of their views.

Inspector

Rebecca Khabbazi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Robust recruitment procedures help to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager, staff and committee members are aware of their responsibilities in relation to child protection. They know what steps to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager and staff monitor children's learning effectively to promptly identify any gaps. For example, staff have worked on encouraging all children to benefit from new challenges outdoors. Staff use what they learn at training local courses well to help evaluate and help develop the provision. Parents speak highly of the pre-school and value the caring, approachable staff team. They comment on the high quality of activities and their children's good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff guide and support children well, encouraging them to solve problems for themselves and test out their ideas. They respond to children's interests well. For example, children had enormous fun making bird-seed balls and wanted to hang them up at pre-school instead of taking them home. Staff encouraged children to work out how they could add some string to hang them and decide the best place to put them on the tree. Staff give children time to thoroughly explore their ideas. For example, they became absorbed in making playdough cupcakes using glittery sprinkles, a cake stand and baking trays. Children have constant access to the outdoor area throughout the day. They explore and investigate. For example, they fill containers with sand and water, dig in the earth and see what happens when they pour water through a series of bottles attached to the wall.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled. They have positive relationships with staff and behave well. Staff act as good role models and provide clear, consistent guidance and support. For example, they remind children of the rules at group times and sing a song to let them know when it is time to tidy up. Children learn to treat each other with respect. They develop good self-care skills when they serve their own snack using tongs, or cut up ingredients for a fruit salad. Staff help children develop the skills they need to keep themselves healthy and safe. For example, they encourage children to think about how to behave safely, such as not running inside and using tools carefully.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. They are independent and confidently make choices about their day. They concentrate well and are eager to learn. Children get along well together, learning to share and take turns. They become confident communicators and are excited to share their ideas. They are well prepared for their future learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113393
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	839855
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 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Buckingham Pre-School Playgroup
Date of previous inspection	11 February 2011
Telephone number	07772 122 016

Buckingham Playgroup registered in 1992. It operates from the Scout Hall in Shoreham, West Sussex. It is open during term time from 9am to 3pm on Monday to Wednesday, from 9am to 1pm on Thursday and from 9am to 12 noon on Friday. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine staff; six hold relevant qualifications at level 3 and two hold qualifications at level 2.

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