

The Playhouse Preschool

Cove Methodist Church, Cove Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 0EX



Inspection date

4 March 2016

Previous inspection date

7 September 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

- The manager and staff show a strong commitment towards making improvement.
- Partnerships with parents are good. There are effective systems in place for parents to share their children's experiences from home. This helps to provide consistency for children's care, which promotes their wellbeing.
- Staff skilfully communicate with the children, encouraging their ideas and involving them in purposeful conversations. This supports all children with their speaking and listening skills, including those children who are learning English as an additional language.
- Staff have a clear understanding of how to support children's development. They check closely on the progress children make and use this information when planning for the next steps in their learning.
- Children are highly motivated and they show good levels of sustained interest in the wide range of activities available. This helps them to make good progress in readiness for starting school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not always make the most of small group activities to maximise all children's learning. These missed opportunities mean that they do not always follow children's interests and ideas fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the newly-implemented small group activities by increasing opportunities for all children to contribute and share their interests.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors carried out a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspectors spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspectors looked at a range of documents, including records of children's progress, staff training and staff suitability checks.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching, the self-evaluation process and safeguarding procedures.

Inspectors

Elizabeth Mackey / Linda du Preez

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The senior staff make good use of the support they receive from the committee and the local authority. Since the last inspection, staff have worked hard to address the actions and recommendations that were raised. Self-evaluation is robust and there are clear targets in place for future development. For example, managers now undertake checks to ensure the suitability of all committee members. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff understand their responsibilities in helping to keep children safe and secure. The manager is extremely committed to making the most of training and provides coaching to enable the staff team to develop their skills. She closely monitors the progress of all children. This helps to ensure that staff plan accurately for the next steps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and have a good understanding of what children can do and how they make progress. Staff plan together and, as a result, they know the individual aims for all the children. This optimises opportunities for learning. Observations are sharp and provide a clear picture of the progress children make. There are good arrangements in place to support children who speak English as an additional language. For example, staff use gestures and visual prompts well in their communication. Children move around the setting independently. For example, when 'making pizza' with dough, they choose to take it to the role play area where they pretend to bake. Staff effectively engage with the children and extend their learning by asking related questions to help them to develop their ideas and thoughts.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are active, eager learners. Staff encourage children to make decisions for themselves, which builds their confidence. They encourage children's physical development by providing an exciting range of outdoor activities. For example, children become absorbed in their play in the outside kitchen. They enjoy the freedom of pouring and filling different containers with water. They use their imagination as they pretend they are 'working'. Staff and children have positive relationships, which help to promote consistency in children's care and learning. This is complemented by the partnership with parents, who speak very highly about the staff. There is a strong focus on promoting children's social skills. As a result, children behave very well and show kindness and understanding towards one another. Staff make the most of everyday opportunities to promote independence and children's understanding of healthy eating.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress, including those whose who speak English as an additional language. Children develop good independence; they are motivated and show a positive attitude towards learning. Staff seek additional support for children with special educational needs and/or disability. Their prompt and effective action means that all children make consistently good progress, relative to their starting points. Consequently, children are well prepared for their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110556
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1039409
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 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	Playhouse Preschool (Cove)
Date of previous inspection	7 September 2015
Telephone number	07792 936 941

Playhouse Preschool registered in 2000 and is run by a committee. It operates from Cove, near Farnborough in Hampshire. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, from 8.45am to 11.45am during term time. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. A team of four staff work with the children. Of these, three hold relevant qualifications between level 3 and level 5.

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