

Ashington Playgroup

Ashington Community Centre, Foster Lane, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex,
RH20 3PG



Inspection date

5 May 2016

Previous inspection date

10 October 2012

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

- Managers make effective use of self-evaluation and their knowledge of children to provide a broad range of resources that encourages their motivation to engage. For example, toys and activities are easily accessible by all children and this enables them to make choices and follow their interests.
- Close bonds and secure attachments are evident between staff and children. This helps children to be emotionally secure, develop into active learners and be keen to explore.
- Staff have a good understanding about how children learn. They concentrate well on developing children's communication, language and physical skills to support their progression in more specific areas of learning, such as writing and mathematics.
- Managers and staff monitor children's progress to identify and support any gaps in their learning. This effectively helps all children to work comfortably within the range of development typical for their age.
- Staff make accurate and regular assessments of children's development. They regularly share this information with parents to enable them to continue children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers do not always use staff performance monitoring systems effectively to help staff build on their good levels of teaching.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to help children think about how they can positively manage their own behaviour.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the support and coaching for staff to improve the quality of teaching and children's outcomes even more
- build on opportunities to encourage children's thinking skills as they try to manage their own behaviours.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises and observed the impact of teaching on children's enjoyment and development.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain an understanding of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation.
- The inspector spoke with the manager and staff about their practice and the impact on children's learning and development.

Inspector

Claire Watson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff have a thorough awareness of child protection matters and understand the procedures for reporting any concerns. Staff place a high priority on safety, for example, children learn how to cross roads safely during outings in the community. Managers take the views of children, parents and staff seriously when they plan improvements to the playgroup. For example, the layout of resources was changed when children asked for a bigger home corner to play in, allowing children to expand their learning opportunities. Managers work effectively with other early years professionals to identify and meet children's needs well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan effectively to enable children to follow their interests and work on their next stages of learning. Staff provide good learning experiences that engage and motivate children. For example, staff sit with children and read the books that they helped to choose from the visiting library. The older children are captivated by the story and very engaged. Staff support children's growing awareness of letters well. For example, older children quickly think of words that begin with a 'k', such as 'kangaroo', 'king' and 'koala'. Children are keen to explore different textures. For instance, as they feel 'slime' in a plastic bag they talk about it being 'squidgy', 'soft' and 'cold'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident, happy and settle quickly at the playgroup. Staff encourage children's independence, for example, children frequently help staff to prepare and serve snacks. Children enjoy eating healthy foods, such as fresh fruit and oat biscuits. They begin to learn what foods are good for them as, for example, they know that bananas and pears are good foods and sweets are not. Staff provide a good range of resources and plan positive activities that help children learn about and value people's differences and similarities. For example, children learn about different festivals, such as Diwali, Holi and Tu Bishvat, as well as more familiar celebrations like Christmas.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for the next stage in their learning and for the move on to school. For example, younger children enjoy using water painting to practise their early writing skills, and older children begin to write their names clearly. Children enjoy mathematical challenges, such as when they work out how many more boys than girls there are at the playgroup. Children are motivated, curious and keen to learn more. For example, they enjoyed investigating what happened to the water as it disappeared on the fence, when they painted with water in the sunshine.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY280579
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1028010
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	24
Number of children on roll	17
Name of provider	Shirley Ann Piper
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2012
Telephone number	07774571315

Ashington Playgroup registered in 2004 and is situated in Ashington, near Pulborough, West Sussex. The playgroup is open from 9am to midday on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Tuesday and Thursday. There are three members of staff, all of whom hold relevant level 3 qualifications. The playgroup receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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