

Overton Playgroup

The Community Centre, Winchester Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 3HS



Inspection date	18 October 2016
Previous inspection date	17 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The manager ensures that staff inspire children through exceptionally good teaching and rich, diverse opportunities for indoor and outdoor play.
- Staff have a very secure knowledge of how to protect children from harm. They work very effectively with other agencies to ensure children's welfare needs are met promptly.
- Staff monitor children's achievements very closely to build on their strengths and address any delays in their development. All children, including those who have special educational needs or disability, make outstanding levels of progress from their starting points.
- Children behave extremely well. Staff teach them clear rules to help them play and work together. Children treat each other with enormous respect and learn to value highly each other's ideas and choices.
- Staff prepare children particularly well for school. They work closely with local childminders and teachers to ensure children are resilient and ready for change.
- Partnerships with parents and carers are highly effective. They advance children's welfare, enhance their learning and help children to flourish within their local community.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- observe children's responses carefully to ensure every child has the time they need to process, understand and use new words and phrases.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed care routines and teaching, and the impact of these on children's learning and development.
- The inspector reviewed records and procedures relating to safeguarding, risk assessment, health and safety, and discussed a range of other procedures relating to children's safety and welfare with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, the planning and evaluation of activities, and how staff exchange information with parents.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed written communication from parents.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager, discussed individual cases with the special educational needs coordinator, and met with the chair of the parent committee.

Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager provides strong leadership. She is supported by a team of highly experienced, well-qualified, dedicated staff and an enthusiastic new parent committee. They share a clear vision to give every child the best possible start, through high-quality care and learning experiences. The manager and her deputy manager lead by example. They constantly improve the quality of teaching and the learning environment through the use of reflection, self-evaluation and continued professional development. Safeguarding is effective. The parent committee underpins everyday practices with a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that help staff keep children safe, secure and able to thrive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are quick to observe what children know, and how they learn best, when they start at the pre-school. They promptly share valuable insights with children's parents and plan ways to meet individual needs and challenge children appropriately. For example, children design maps and learn to use clear directions as they guide friends to treasures buried in the sand pit. Staff nurture children's understanding, for instance, as they use liquids, natural materials and garden vegetables to investigate water flow and pressure, gravity and weight. Staff make excellent use of songs and rhymes to develop children's communication and language skills. However, on occasion, some of the less experienced listeners are not given enough time to think and understand new vocabulary or requests.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are wonderful role models for children. They show their enthusiasm for trying new activities and solving problems. They work together with great humour, respect and encouragement. Children are extremely confident and self-assured, and their personal needs are incredibly well met. They show enjoyment in their learning and increasing independence in making choices. For example, children choose new and different healthy foods and enthusiastically help to prepare and clear away snacks with great skill. Children greatly enjoy the superb opportunities to develop their physical skills outdoors.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are imaginative and creative in their plans for constructions and persistent in achieving what they set out to do. They successfully learn to assess their own risks. For example, they move buckets of coloured water around as they paint their builder's hut and climb over apparatus as they pretend to drill, saw and fix things. Children learn to use a wide range of tools for learning, from pulleys to pencils, and story tapes to computers. They thoroughly enjoy frequent visits to the adjacent library and exploring the books they choose. Children are exceptionally well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507966
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1061589
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	26
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Overton Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905201
Date of previous inspection	17 July 2013
Telephone number	01256 770 370

Overton Playgroup opened in 1974. It is managed by a committee of parents and operates from two sites. This registration is based at the community centre in Overton, near Basingstoke. The pre-school operates five days a week, from 9am to 3.15pm, during school term times. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine permanent members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications at level 3 or level 4.

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