

Bolton Children's Opportunity Group Playgroup

Lowndes Street Nursery, Lowndes Street, Heaton, Bolton, BL1 4QB



Inspection date

17 November 2016

Previous inspection date

8 October 2013

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are happy and engaged in this playgroup. They make good choices about their play because staff work in very small groups with them to support their needs and their development across all seven areas of learning.
- The playgroup is very well planned with good quality equipment in place. This contributes to the progress children are making in their learning and development.
- Partnerships with parents are very effective. They compliment the staff on how they support their children's needs. This helps to promote a highly consistent approach to children's care and learning. Children's emotional well-being is strongly promoted.
- The manager and staff team have developed very effective partnerships with other professionals. For example, they use the support of 'on site' speech and language therapists and special educational needs and disabilities advisors to plan interventions for individual children when needed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The process for the supervision of staff is not yet consolidated to set precise targets for their future continuous professional development, to focus on further developing staff's skills to the highest level.
- Systems to monitor staff's practice are not yet fully effective in raising the quality of teaching to the highest standard overall.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the programme of continuous professional development and the supervision of staff to focus more strongly on raising the quality of teaching
- refine systems to monitor staff's practice and ensure teaching is of a consistently high standard overall.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the playgroup.
- The inspector sampled children's assessment records, planning documentation and a range of other records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the playgroup manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation and improvement plans.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Emma Barrow

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding and know who to contact if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Staff are well qualified and are deployed effectively to ensure that the children's needs are met at all times. Comprehensive policies and procedures support staff's practice in ensuring children are kept safe and protected from harm. High adult-to-child ratios help to ensure that children are always very well supervised. Daily risk assessments are conducted by the staff in all the indoor and outdoor areas. Tracking and monitoring of children's progress ensures that any gaps in children's learning are identified quickly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly assess the individual progress that children are making and use this to identify what they need to learn next. Children who require additional support also have an individualised plan devised. This targets a specific need, such as speech and language, and staff observe the children's progress through focused activities. There is a range of opportunities to engage children's interests, for example, racing cars and balls down ramps, digging for worms, and making marks in the sand or shaving foam with vehicles. Children enjoy being able to move freely indoors and out. Staff read stories enthusiastically, encouraging children to say the words while copying actions. This helps to support their listening and communication skills well. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress. They have daily discussions with staff and regular opportunities to share a written summary about their child's development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children form outstanding and incredibly secure emotional bonds with staff and they settle exceptionally well. Parents speak extremely positively and describe the significant impact the playgroup has had on their children's learning and well-being. They rate the playgroup highly and describe it as a marvellous home-from-home environment that helps their children to thrive. Each child's unique background is celebrated and highly valued. Extremely personalised settling-in information and the sharing of ongoing information helps to ensure children settle very quickly. Children are happy, relaxed and show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Staff are excellent role models demonstrating polite, patient and friendly behaviour which children adopt. Children's physical development is given high regard through opportunities to access the exceptionally well-resourced garden. Children's understanding of healthy lifestyles is extremely well supported through activities and robust daily routines, such as snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident and interested learners. They are making sustained good progress across all areas of learning and demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning as they play. They are being prepared well for their next stages of learning and move to school. For those children whose starting points are lower, assessments show they are making progress and gaps are narrowing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	315940
Local authority	Bolton
Inspection number	1064036
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Bolton Childrens Opportunity Group Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519534
Date of previous inspection	8 October 2013
Telephone number	01204 491 085

Bolton Children's Opportunity Group Playgroup was registered in 1995. The playgroup employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold recognised early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 3.30pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and supports those who speak English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs and disabilities.

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