

Polegate Preschool Playgroup

54 Windsor Way, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6QF



Inspection date

9 December 2016

Previous inspection date

10 January 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Leaders involve parents, staff and children when evaluating the playgroup. They use this information effectively to make improvements. For example, older children now take responsibility to help younger children and show them how to do things when they play together in the main hall.
- Key persons develop close relationships with children. They gain valuable information to assess children's starting points, for example, when they visit them at home before they start.
- Children make significant progress in their learning, including those who need extra support. Staff work effectively with outside agencies to support children's individual needs and help close gaps in learning.
- Staff provide children with valuable, exciting and challenging learning experiences. They support these with a wide variety of stimulating and age-appropriate resources. For example, children mould shapes and make 'cakes' with a mixture of soap, tissue, glitter and water that they call 'clean soil'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to help children build on their independence.
- At times, staff do not give children enough time to think creatively and decide on their own answers to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's opportunities to develop their independence even more
- extend opportunities for children to think creatively and answer questions in their own words.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises and observed the impact of teaching on children's enjoyment and development.
- The inspector spoke with parents, and read their comments, 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. Leaders and staff have a thorough knowledge of child protection concerns and the procedures for dealing with them. They support children to be safety conscious. For instance, staff remind children to treat toys with care and to walk and not run when indoors. Leaders support staff practice effectively with regular meetings and professional development opportunities. For example, recent training about literacy showed staff the importance of sharing books every day. Leaders monitor the progress of groups of children effectively and support staff to provide additional opportunities to enable children with identified gaps in their learning to close those gaps.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make regular observations and accurate assessments of children's progress from their starting points and share this information effectively with parents. Younger children play well alongside older children, who are patient and helpful with them. Staff support children's emotional development very well. Key persons make sure that children settle well and know who to ask for help. Children are supported to make choices in their play and staff ensure that their interests are followed and planned for in organised activities. For example, children enjoy 'writing' on Christmas cards, sealing them in envelopes and posting them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children use their imagination well, for instance, they play pirates on the pirate ship and use the mud garden to bury treasure. Staff provide children with nutritious options at snack time that include fresh fruits and cereals. They support parents to supply healthy foods in children's lunch boxes. Staff encourage children to lead a healthy lifestyle. For instance, children play outside every day and are provided with showerproof clothing for protection against the rain. Staff role model positive behaviour and language, and they praise children as they behave very well. They provide a loving, caring and supportive environment where children's self-esteem is boosted. For example, children are given awards such as 'Star of the week' for being a good role model to friends.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident learners. They are inquisitive and keen to 'have a go'. For example, they sing songs on their own at group times in front of their friends. They are motivated to take appropriate risks and learn by their mistakes. All children make progress from their starting points. They form good friendships, celebrate each other's differences and have an awareness of diversity in the world. Older children gain skills in early reading, writing and mathematics to prepare them well for going to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109485
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1061191
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	41
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Polegate Pre-School Playgroup
Registered person unique reference number	RP517872
Date of previous inspection	10 January 2013
Telephone number	07983 864 966

Polegate Preschool Playgroup registered in 1964 and is based in Polegate, East Sussex. It is open from 9am until 12.45pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. There are 10 staff; of these, six hold a relevant level 3 childcare qualification. The pre-school playgroup receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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