

Charnwood College Playgroup

Charnwood College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ



Inspection date	24 January 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff provide children with a very welcoming, stimulating and well-resourced learning environment. A wealth of useful information is displayed for parents and visitors, including lots of examples of children's artwork.
- Staff are skilled, sensitive and responsive to meeting children's individual needs. They are highly focused on building children's communication, physical and social skills.
- Children enjoy their time at the playgroup and are confident and motivated to learn. They form close emotional attachments with staff and develop friendships with other children.
- Staff plan rich and varied activities and make good use of resources and routines to support children's learning.
- There are positive relationships between the staff, parents and other professionals and early years providers, including the local schools. This helps to make sure there is consistency and continuity in children's learning and care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While staff successfully use observation and assessment to identify gaps in children's learning, they do not always use information gained from these to plan precisely enough to ensure the support they offer is sharply focused on what children need to learn next.
- Although staff involve parents in their children's learning, they do not always give them clear enough information about what children need to learn next, so they can more successfully help guide their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of information gathered from observations and assessment of children's learning to more precisely target what children need to learn next
- provide clear information to parents about children's next steps in their development so that their learning can be more successfully guided at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tina Garner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of what to do to keep children safe. They have a strong understanding of how to refer child protection concerns and they regularly identify and address potential risks in the environment. The manager accurately evaluates the playgroup and targets for future development are continually set. Performance management arrangements are effective. The manager provides staff with good quality support, supervision and training. Consequently, staff are well qualified and have the necessary skills and abilities to meet the children's needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children develop their small physical skills as they excitedly experiment with coloured sand. They use their hands to feel the texture and use small tools to make different patterns. In the role-play area, children work well together, play cooperatively and use their imaginations. Children develop their creativity as they use materials to make collages. The staff plan these activities well and use them effectively as opportunities to maximise children's communication, language and problem-solving skills. Children are successfully encouraged to recall and talk about current and past events. This helps to sustain their interest as they begin to develop their own ideas. Children learn to recognise letters, words and numbers during small-group activities and have lots of opportunities to paint and draw.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and settled in their surroundings. They know what to expect during sessions because staff share clear boundaries and follow familiar routines. The learning environment is bright and attractive. Toys and resources are arranged to enable children to make choices in their play. This helps to inspire children's curiosity and independence. Staff are very good role models. They use consistent praise and encouragement to promote children's confidence and self-esteem. Children are taught skills and behaviours that help them to be kind and caring, for example, they learn to take turns and share. The outdoor area provides exciting play opportunities for all ages and effectively supports children who prefer to play and learn outside.

Outcomes for children are good

All children enjoy the activities available and show sustained levels of interest in what is provided in relation to their age. They listen well at group times and learn to communicate their needs successfully. They show an interest in books and stories, and practise their early writing skills as they write for different purposes. Children develop increasing independence in caring for themselves, such as managing their own clothes and using the toilet without help. These skills help to prepare children well for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496442
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1033924
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	The David Ross Education Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP902344
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01509 554466

Charnwood College Playgroup was registered in 2015. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and 4. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 4.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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