

Staplehurst Under Fives Playgroup

The Village Centre, High Street, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 0BJ



Inspection date	17 March 2017
Previous inspection date	22 January 2015

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

- Children' achievements are praised and this helps to support their self-esteem and confidence. Key workers are consistent in their expectations of behaviour and children respond positively.
- Staff understand the importance of good partnerships with parents. Parents appreciate the regular opportunities they have to discuss their child's learning and contribute to their assessment folders. Parents say their children are happy.
- Children who have special educational needs are well supported. Staff use the expertise of other professionals to provide additional resources and advice.
- There is good communication between the pre-school and other settings, including school. With parental permission, information about children's achievements is shared and this helps to support continuity in learning and progress.
- Children's starting points are agreed with parents. Staff make regular observations, identify next steps, and plan activities to help to support children's good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are occasions when staff do not make the most of opportunities that arise for children to develop personal independence.
- Sometimes, staff do not extend children's learning even further or give them enough time to think about how they will respond to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

Due Date

- improve system of the requirement to notify Ofsted of changes to the members of the committee 17/03/2017

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

- use all the opportunities available for children to learn to develop personal independence
- extend children's learning even further by making the most of opportunities to consistently challenge children and give them time to consider their responses.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all members of staff.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager and discussed the learning that took place.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and with other members of staff.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and read the written comments of others to take account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team to discuss various aspects of their work.

Inspector

Jill Thewlis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff clearly understand the procedures to follow to keep children safe from harm. They know who to contact if they have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. Self-evaluation is accurate and identifies areas for improvement. For instance, a new system has been introduced to track children's progress. Leaders now check progress more thoroughly, quickly highlight any gaps in learning and put effective measures in place to help children to catch up. The premises are checked for risks each day and any hazards are promptly dealt with. The manager has regular discussions with staff members to talk about their practice and training needs. Staff are encouraged to keep their knowledge and skills up to date to help to support improved outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that reflect their interests. They are encouraged to use their imaginations and they make links in their play to their own experiences. Children gather the things they need to take their dolls for a walk, not forgetting the dog, for example. They push the prams around, safely negotiating space and avoiding obstacles. Children are encouraged to communicate effectively. Adults model clear speech, repeating words and phrases back to children to encourage correct pronunciation. Children's physical skills are effectively developed. They enjoy riding the bikes outside and benefit from trips, such as to the local farm to see the new lambs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have a wide range of opportunities to appreciate the differences and similarities between themselves and others. They have celebrated festivals such as the Holi festival of colour and St David's Day, 'throwing' paint to create patterns and painting daffodils. Children can use simple tools safely. They hold scissors correctly to cut the playdough into shapes. Children have a good understanding of how to stay safe. For example, a child taking her dough out of the oven, used a cloth 'because it will be hot.' Children lead their own learning, confidently including the adults in their play. They ask adults to 'ring the doctor because the baby is poorly,' and show consideration as they ponder whether the baby would benefit from hot milk.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for the next phase of their education, including school. They count, understand the language of size and recognise basic shapes. Children enjoy sharing books with each other, and with other adults. They learn to recognise and write their own names. Children share their toys, take turns and play co-operatively with each other. During singing time, children joined in with the actions enthusiastically.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127636
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1085733
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	30
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	Staplehurst Under Fives Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524288
Date of previous inspection	22 January 2015
Telephone number	07792 938947

Staplehurst Under Fives playgroup registered in 1989 and is managed by a committee of parents. The group is situated in Staplehurst, Kent. The group operates each weekday during term time from 9am to 12noon with a lunch club on Monday and Wednesday until 1pm. The group receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four. The provision employs six members of staff who all hold recognised childcare qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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