

Southgate West Playgroup

Hilltop Primary School, Ditchling Hill, Southgate West, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 8QL



Inspection date	23 March 2017
Previous inspection date	4 February 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

- Staff are very caring and supportive. They spend plenty of time joining in with children's play and build strong bonds with them. Children feel very settled and secure and are enthusiastic about their time spent at the setting.
- There are strong partnerships in place with professionals. For example, staff make very good use of the knowledge and expertise of speech therapists. The dedicated staff work hard to offer further support for children who need extra help with their communication and language skills.
- The manager and staff evaluate and reflect on their practice well. They work closely together to help identify areas of their provision to improve further. They continue to improve the outcomes for children.
- Staff know children well and provide them with the individual support they need. They work closely with children who have English as an additional language. Staff effectively use visual aids and model simple language to support children's communication skills. All children make good progress from their starting points in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not consistently extend children's learning to the highest levels and build fully on all learning opportunities that arise.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to support children's understanding of how a healthy diet can help to encourage good health and well-being.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with even more consistent challenge to extend their learning to the highest levels
- offer further support for children's understanding of how a healthy diet can help to encourage good health and well-being.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the setting's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager supervises her staff closely and works well with them to support their teaching. She gives them guidance and coaching, such as through staff meetings and offers further relevant training opportunities. For example, after recent training, staff introduced new ideas to support children's understanding of diversity. They now fully include and celebrate the cultures of the children who attend the setting. The manager and staff have also improved the outdoor learning environment for children. Children now have further opportunities to plant flowers and to learn about the cycle of growth and change. The manager and staff monitor the development of individuals and groups of children and quickly act on any gaps in learning. Safeguarding is effective. Children's welfare is at the heart of all the setting's up-to-date policies and procedures. Staff know what to do and who to contact if they have any concerns about children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe children's play and learning closely and keep detailed records of their development. They plan precise next steps in learning for each child and regularly share these with parents to support learning at home. Staff follow children's own ideas in play and make learning fun. For example, children enjoy talking about the flowers they have planted. Staff encourage children to describe how they look and how they grow. Staff support children's mathematical skills well. For example, they encourage children to recognise numbers on magnetic boards and to count to each number, using their fingers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very happy and confident. They develop strong social skills and build trusting friendships. Children enjoy playing together and behave well, showing consideration for others. For example, they happily make room at the playdough table, adding extra chairs so that others can join in. Staff support children's physical well-being effectively. Children happily choose when to play in the stimulating outdoor area and develop strong physical skills. For example, they practise throwing balls through hoops and confidently ride pedal-bicycles. Children have a strong sense of self-esteem and respond well to praise.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop a positive attitude towards their learning and are willing to give things a go. They are well-motivated and show good concentration. For example, children carefully build with wooden blocks, creating complex structures. Children are very independent and delight in preparing their own snack, confidently cutting toast and spreading butter. Children communicate well and enjoy sharing their opinions and expressing themselves. They enjoy imaginary play and quickly learn the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY268196
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1085802
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	Southgate West Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521609
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2015
Telephone number	01293511008

Southgate West Playgroup registered in 2003. The group operates from Hilltop Primary School, in the Southgate area of Crawley, in West Sussex. The playgroup is open between 9am and 12pm and between 12.30pm and 3.30pm each weekday, during term time. The setting employs eight staff, one of whom holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, five hold qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years.

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