

Preston Park Playgroup

St Marys Church Hall, 5 Surrenden Road, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 6PA



Inspection date

25 April 2017

Previous inspection date

14 April 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 attentive to the children's needs. They provide children with a nurturing environment and build strong bonds with them. Children are happy, settled and secure. They are enthusiastic about their time at the playgroup.
- The manager and staff regularly observe children and know the children well. They provide a stimulating and welcoming environment with enjoyable opportunities for children to explore. Children make good progress from their starting points in learning.
- Staff support children's language development very well. For example, they engage children in lots of conversations based on their interests and ask interesting questions to encourage their thinking.
- The manager builds effective links with local schools to help children's eventual move. For example, she shares children's detailed development records with teachers.
- The ambitious manager supervises and supports her staff team well. For example, she carries out regular staff meetings and appraisals to help them update their skills and improve practice further. Together, they continue to improve children's outcomes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not fully challenge children's learning and independence during planned activities.
- Staff do not make the most of their partnerships with parents to help them support their children's learning further at home.

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 more challenge during some planned activities to extend their learning and independence further
- build further on existing partnerships with parents to involve and help them to support their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact they have on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled 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 leads her staff team very well and they work closely together to help accurately evaluate the provision. They regularly reflect on the experiences for children and make relevant improvements. For example, the manager and staff have successfully addressed their previous recommendation and improved how they assess children's development to monitor their progress effectively. The manager quickly identifies any gaps in children's learning and offers further support to help them catch up quickly. Safeguarding is effective. All staff regularly attend training to help keep their knowledge up to date. They know how to recognise when children may be at risk of harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make effective use of children's interests to help motivate them in their learning. For example, children enjoy using magnifying glasses to observe toy insects closely. Staff use their interactions with children as they play to help encourage children's thinking. For example, they ask children to describe the insects and count how many legs they have. Staff then show children books with information about the different insects and encourage them to try to find real insects in the garden. Staff support children's early literacy skills effectively. For instance, they encourage children to sound out the letters of their name and to write their name on finished artwork.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are strong role models for children and consistently support their understanding of the setting's rules. Children behave well and show great care and consideration for others. They develop good social skills and friendships. For example, children happily discuss what roles they could play in the home corner and take turns as they help to make play dough. Staff support children's physical well-being effectively and provide children with a wide variety of opportunities to be active. For example, children develop their muscles and coordination skills as they ride bicycles. Children enjoy the responsibility of serving their food during snack time and consistently use good manners.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners. They concentrate well and pay attention to detail. For example, children take their time drawing complex pictures. Children are confident communicators and happily express themselves. They develop strong mathematical skills, such as working out that they needed more cups at snack time so that all children could have one. Children enjoy imaginary play and act out scenarios, such as looking after baby dolls and cooking dinner for the family. They have opportunities in their play to explore the wider world and the differences between themselves and others. Children gain the skills needed for the next stage in their learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130762
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	1089425
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	24
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Preston Park Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524462
Date of previous inspection	14 April 2015
Telephone number	01273 557 144

Preston Park Playgroup registered in 1995. It is located at St Mary's Church Hall in Brighton and Hove. The setting is open between 9am and 1pm each weekday, during term time. The setting employs five staff, of whom one holds qualified teacher status, two hold qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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