

Playbox Playgroup

Methodist Church Hall, Gloucester Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8QD



Inspection date

3 May 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 observe and assess children's play to help them understand their interests and enable them to plan challenging activities. Children enjoy learning and all, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress.
- Children are highly independent and are learning to manage their own personal care needs. For example, they wash their hands and get ready to go outside.
- The manager and staff team regularly monitor children's development and ensure that any gaps in learning are worked towards immediately. The manager oversees children's individual planning to ensure that it is appropriate for their stage of learning.
- The manager and staff use good systems for sharing information with other settings and professionals that care for children. The manager also works closely with local schools to support children's moves and share information with teachers.
- The manager and staff have good relationships with parents and make sure that all of them, including those that speak English as an additional language, fully understand how they are supporting their children's learning and how they can be involved.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss some opportunities to develop children's mathematical skills.
- Occasionally, staff do not organise group times to meet the individual needs of younger children and staff expectations of their abilities are too advanced for their age.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further opportunities to challenge children's mathematical development during play and activities
- review some aspects of group times to suit the needs of younger children more effectively and ensure that staff expectations of children are appropriate for their ages.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to the manager and staff, at appropriate times during the inspection, to discuss their knowledge and understanding of their roles.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector tracked some children's development and assessed their progress, considering their starting points.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their feedback on the playgroup and staff.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's welfare and of their role in protecting them from harm. The manager ensures staff receive regular training and holds staff meetings to keep them updated with any changes in requirements. The manager encourages staff to develop their knowledge and skills. For example, some staff have achieved their level 3 childcare qualification. This has had a positive impact on the quality of their interactions and understanding of how children learn. The manager and staff regularly review the provision and identify ways to improve. For example, they have recently introduced meetings with their multi-cultural families, which has enabled them to introduce a variety of activities to develop children's knowledge of the wider world. Additional funding is used carefully and appropriately to meet the learning needs of each child.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of children's interests and provide opportunities to engage them in learning. For example, staff know that children enjoy role play. They arranged fruit and vegetables in the 'kitchen' with weighing scales and mark-making resources. Children talked confidently about the different foods, took 'orders' from staff and friends, and discussed the importance of healthy eating. Staff interact well with children and help promote their language skills. For example, they ask questions to make them think and extend their conversations. Children have constant opportunities to access the outdoor area and develop their physical skills. For example, children balanced on 'stones' and jumped between them while trying not to fall in 'water'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are warm and welcoming. They support children's emotional well-being effectively and promote their independence skills. Children have a good understanding of the routine. For example, they find their pictures, hang their coat up and place snacks in a basket. Children behave well and are exceptionally kind and considerate towards their friends. For example, children hugged their friends when they fell over. Staff praise children highly for their kindness and celebrate these acts on 'The Kindness Tree'. This helps to encourage children's good behaviour and boosts their self-esteem.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for their future learning and the move to school. They are highly confident learners and not afraid to try. Older children demonstrate secure social skills and play very well with each other. They explore their ideas, listen to each other and work together to complete desired tasks. Children enjoy 'having a go' at writing their names, which helps support their understanding of early literacy.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113653
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1089118
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	44
Name of registered person	Burgess Hill Methodist Church
Registered person unique reference number	RP907896
Date of previous inspection	14 April 2015
Telephone number	07947 229 629

Playbox Playgroup registered in 1992. It is situated in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The playgroup is open during term time only, on Monday from 8.45am to 12.45pm and Tuesday to Friday from 8.45am to 2.45pm. There are eight staff; of these, seven hold an appropriate childcare qualifications to level 3 or level 4. The playgroup receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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