

Horfield Methodist Playgroup

Horfield Methodist Church, Churchways Avenue, Bristol, Avon, BS7 8SN



Inspection date	12 May 2017
Previous inspection date	16 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

- The manager, staff and committee members have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including safeguarding children. They provide a safe and secure environment for children to explore and investigate.
- Staff build good partnerships with parents to help provide the best start for children. For example, they share information about children's progress and record what parents share about their child's learning at home to inform children's overall assessment. Parents feel included and speak highly of the staff team.
- Staff provide a warm and enjoyable environment in which children develop a strong sense of belonging. They are positive role models and always on hand to offer gentle reassurance and praise. This contributes to children's high self-esteem and confidence.
- Staff have high expectations for each child and plan challenging activities to help improve their outcomes. All children make good progress in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The arrangements for monitoring staff performance, reviewing the quality of their teaching and identifying their development needs are not sharply focused on raising practice to an outstanding level.
- Children, including those who speak English as an additional language, have few opportunities to explore a wide variety of texts, to help them understand that print carries meaning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on evaluating staff performance and targeting professional development to help raise the quality of teaching to the highest levels
- create more opportunities for children, including those who speak English as an additional language, to explore print in the environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed staff and children during play activities.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, confirmation of staff suitability, policies and procedures.
- The inspector talked with the parents, children, the manager and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector toured the playgroup premises.

Inspector

Julie Bright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of how to identify any children who may be at risk of harm. They know how to recognise the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. Furthermore, they know the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The playgroup manager values the opinions of staff, the committee members, parents and children. She actively seeks their views when evaluating the provision. She incorporates their suggestions into development plans, including extending the opening hours to meet the needs of the community. All staff collectively monitor children's progress, including specific groups of children. Timely action is taken to address any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their knowledge of children's interests and what they need to learn next to provide an interesting environment where children confidently explore. Staff are proactive in encouraging children to take on more personal responsibilities and to develop self-help skills. Children make independent decisions about their play and choose from a range of activities that is well matched to their current stages of development. Staff play alongside children, for example, as they join puzzle pieces. They provide a running commentary, helping to extend children's vocabulary and maintain their focus. Staff make the most of opportunities to develop children's understanding of mathematical concepts as they play. For example, children are encouraged to count how many holes they have threaded in weaving activities. In group times, children become engaged with stories, joining in with familiar rhymes and extending their early literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and have strong relationships with staff. Children enjoy play and exercise in the fresh air each day and they learn about healthy lifestyles. They greatly enjoy investigating the outdoor environment and riding tricycles. Children successfully learn to take turns, share and cooperate with others during their play. Children behave well. Parents share positive views and comment on how well their children learn valuable social and life skills, which they attribute to attending the playgroup. Children learn about people, communities and festivals, such as Fiesta Day, that are celebrated by attending families. Children enjoy visits to local places of interest, including the city farm.

Outcomes for children are good

Children have good levels of independence. For example, they are able to pour their own drinks and enjoy tidying up. They are confident and willing to try new activities. All children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points and develop positive attitudes in preparation for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106984
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	1089004
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	17
Name of registered person	Horfield Methodist Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP907572
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2015
Telephone number	07903 350214

Horfield Methodist Playgroup registered in 2001. The playgroup employs three members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens during school term times, each weekday morning from 9am until midday. The playgroup provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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