

Oulton Abbey Playgroup

Oulton Abbey, Church Lane, Oulton, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8UP



Inspection date

15 May 2017

Previous inspection date

25 June 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 build trusting relationships with children. They are knowledgeable about children's family circumstances and place a good focus on promoting their emotional well-being.
- Staff place a strong focus on finding out about children's interests and take account of these to provide motivating learning experiences. Children enjoy their learning and make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff promote children's language and speaking skills well. They provide ample opportunities for children to foster an interest in books and stories.
- Systems in place to work with parents are strong and the close relationships established help staff work with parents to support children's learning.
- Staff use effective risk assessments to help keep the environment and resources used by children safe and suitable.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Methods for monitoring staff performance are not embedded well enough to help raise the quality of teaching to exceptional levels.
- Staff do not provide enough opportunities to extend children's learning about technology or exploring mathematical concepts, such as weight and measurement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the effective monitoring and staff performance management systems to help raise the quality of teaching to an even higher level
- provide a rich range of experiences that extends children's learning in using technology resources and exploring mathematical concepts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The determined manager has an accurate overview of the playgroup and uses self-evaluation well to identify further areas for development. For example, children are consulted and feedback from parents and staff is used well to make changes to the service offered. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff are suitably trained in child protection issues, including the signs to look for if a child is being abused. The established staff have a good knowledge of their roles and responsibilities and the policies and procedures in place. Parents report that they are highly satisfied with the care their children receive and that the staff's nurturing approach impresses them.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff place a strong focus on children learning through play and help them to actively learn through experiences which interest them. Staff encourage children to contribute their ideas of what they want to learn about when they plan. Staff place a high focus on increasing children's vocabulary and introduce them to new concepts and ideas. For example, children learn how insects pollinate flowers, and staff reinforce the new words that are introduced well. Staff imaginatively create their own stories and use a broad range of books and visual aids to inspire children's interests. As a result, children know the characters well and are keen to act out their favourite stories. Staff provide good opportunities for children to freely explore and express their ideas during activities, such as in the water, sand and the role play area.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff place a strong focus on helping new children to settle and are nurturing and sensitive to their needs. Children are happy, confident and have good opportunities to increase their independence and self-help skills. Children learn about the benefits of fresh produce as they care for the vegetables in the garden. Staff use the outdoor area well to ensure children have plenty of time in the fresh air and use the varied range of physical play equipment. Children learn how to take controlled risk, such as climbing trees, under close supervision.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including two-years-olds receiving additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children are confident talkers who show an interest in other languages, such as French, and learn to use sign language. They show a strong interest in the natural and local environment. For example, children learn about space and the planets and take part in community events. They show an interest in counting and the most able children recognise and begin to write their names. Children acquire the key skills required in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218197
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1090022
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	The English Benedictine Order of Oulton Abbey Near Stone, Staffs
Registered person unique reference number	RP903131
Date of previous inspection	25 June 2015
Telephone number	01785 827 970

Oulton Abbey Playgroup registered in 1992. The playgroup opens on Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm, and from 9am to 2pm on a Friday, during term time only. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The playgroup employs three members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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