

Chesterton Playgroup

The Village Hall, Alchester Road, Chesterton, BICESTER, Oxfordshire, OX26 1UN



Inspection date

16 May 2017

Previous inspection date

3 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

- Children enter the pre-school with confidence and settle swiftly to activities which offer a good variety and support their individual learning needs.
- Staff observe, track and assess children's development effectively. They successfully identify children's next steps well and highlight these accurately into planning to help children make good progress.
- Staff encourage children to share and take turns well. They effectively talk to children to develop their understanding of good behaviour.
- The manager monitors staff's performance well. For example, she implements strong recruitment and induction processes and offers ongoing appraisal programmes, to ensure all staff working with children are appropriate and safe to do so.
- Self-evaluation methods are effective to ensure the overall care and education offered to the children is strong to improve outcomes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children's knowledge and understanding of similarities and differences in people in the world around them is not as well supported as other aspects of their learning.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to encourage and support children's ongoing independence skills, such as in managing everyday tasks for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's knowledge and understanding of similarities and differences between people and communities
- create more ways to help children manage and build upon their independence skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outside of the pre-school and watched the learning experiences available to children.
- The inspector observed interactions between children and staff, and spoke to children about their experiences.
- The inspector asked staff questions about their work and observed practice with the management team.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and considered their views and opinions about the provision.
- The inspector sampled documentation and completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and are confident in the referral procedures of what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The management team offers good support to the staff, such as peer-on-peer observations and training. For example, staff benefit from regular meetings, which are used to reflect on their practice and highlight any ongoing training and development needs. Recently, staff have had training on observation, assessment and reflective practice, to help them learn how to reflect positively on activities and the benefits of tracking children's development. The management team monitors children's assessments and development well to minimise any gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff play with and support the children well. They offer good inclusion to all children and encourage their communication and language skills well. For example, children of all ages are welcome to join story times, where staff read and skilfully ask questions about the story, such as to aid their memory and speaking skills. Staff tailor activities to meet the individual needs of the children participating. For example, during a mathematical activity, they help the younger children to learn what order numbers go up in, and encourage older children to write the numbers and match them to the corresponding object. Staff promote children's imaginations well. For example, they encourage children's pretend play as they make meals in the role-play area.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff offer good support to the children through a well-maintained key-person system. They encourage children to be friendly to others and support their social skills well. For example, children chat informally to their friends at mealtimes. Staff provide a welcoming environment for the children. For instance, the room is set up invitingly for the children, with toys and resources for them to explore and play with as they arrive. Staff support children's healthy lifestyles well. For example, all children learn the importance of handwashing before meals and why it is important to eat fruit.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well and are well prepared for their next stages in learning. Children show good concentration and enjoy being creative. For example, children have fun investigating with sand and water where they use a variety of pots and containers with which to experiment. Children enjoy exploring and being physically active. For example, children show excitement as they hunt for snails and build them new homes, while others enjoy climbing and experimenting with play equipment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467410
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1095465
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Chesterton Playgroup
Registered person unique reference number	RP910517
Date of previous inspection	3 June 2015
Telephone number	07722780760

Chesterton Playgroup registered in 2013. It operates from the village church hall in Chesterton, near Bicester, in Oxfordshire. It is open on Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm, and on Friday from 9am until midday, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The playgroup employs six members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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