

Inspection date	6 June 2017
Previous inspection date	24 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 develop good relationships with parents and effectively meet children's learning and development needs. Successful links with the local schools and other agencies support children to be confident and make consistent progress in their learning.
- Children of all ages engage in play and learn alongside each other. Staff take account of children's different ages and abilities when they plan activities. They adapt each activity to enable all children to enjoy good quality opportunities to learn.
- Children are happy and settled in this welcoming playgroup. They build strong emotional attachments to the staff. Staff are caring towards the children.
- The manager and staff team use self-evaluation as an ongoing tool to help staff, children and parents reflect upon areas that can be improved.
- Staff know the children well. They talk confidently about where children are in their learning and what they need to do to support their continuing progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not yet use information as well as possible to check the progress made by different groups of children.
- Staff do not fully support active learning for those children who prefer to play and learn outdoors. Children's access to outdoor play is sometimes unnecessarily restricted.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the existing monitoring systems to make comparisons of the progress made by different groups of children, in order to help all children progress to the highest level
- make good use of all areas to support active learning for those children who prefer to learn in the outdoor environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions and completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup. She also looked at a selection of policies and self-evaluation records.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding of what they need to do if they have concerns about a child. They promote children's safety successfully. The playgroup is well maintained and risk assessments are in place. The manager leads a committed team that works together well to support children's learning and development. Staff receive support, for example, through supervision sessions and further training to develop their practice. Partnerships with parents are friendly and trusting. They describe staff as, 'Warm, caring and approachable'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make accurate assessments of children as they play. They share their progress with parents and include them in the children's learning. Children are motivated, eager to learn and fully engaged, demonstrating high levels of perseverance and concentration. Staff successfully provide children with opportunities to use their imagination during creative activities. For example, children demonstrate good coordination and control as they use a range of tools to mould, shape and scoop textured play jelly. Staff support children's communication and language skills well. They engage them in meaningful conversations and encourage them to share their home experiences. Children and staff enjoy sitting together at the beginning of the session to greet each other and sing songs. Children speak confidently in large-group situations.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children and parents receive a warm welcome when they arrive at the playgroup. Staff promote an inclusive environment where all children are valued as unique individuals. This helps them settle and form strong bonds. Children form close friendships, learn to share and show respect for others. Staff use consistent ground rules effectively to help children understand what is expected of them. They give children meaningful praise for good behaviour and individual efforts, which helps build children's self-esteem. Children develop a good sense of belonging and readily follow the established routines. They are very independent and know the importance of a good personal hygiene routine.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those for whom the setting receives additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children develop the skills needed for school. They are enthusiastic and motivated to play and learn. They readily select from the activities provided for them and lead their own play. Children begin to recognise their written name and attempt to write recognisable letters. They receive encouragement to count both in play and routine situations, such as counting the number of plates they need for snack time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	402102
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1091007
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	20
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Wendy Watson
Registered person unique reference number	RP906807
Date of previous inspection	24 June 2015
Telephone number	07711935959

Hereward registered in 1988 and is located in Loughton, Essex. The playgroup employs three members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and two hold level 2. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 8.50am until 11.50am. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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