

Dunston Pre- School Playgroup

Dunston Village Hall, School Lane, Dunston, Staffordshire, ST18 9AG



Inspection date

9 June 2017

Previous inspection date

14 March 2014

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 are warm and caring towards the children. They foster children's strong emotional attachments effectively. Staff use praise and reminders to help children behave well. They are positive role models and help children to form friendships with one another.
- Staff promote positive relationships with the local schools. This helps to make sure there is consistency and continuity for children's care and learning.
- The management evaluates the provision on an ongoing basis. They include the management committee, all staff, parents and children in this process. This helps the management to focus on targets for improvement that benefit all children.
- Staff continually reflect on their practice. They regularly attend training and share new information with other members of staff during team meetings. Management provide regular support meetings with staff to discuss any concerns and how they plan and meet the needs of the children they care for. Outcomes for children are good.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not yet successful in gaining important information from all parents about their child's previous learning prior to entry to the setting, in order to help them plan effectively for their progress from the outset.
- Although staff share information with parents about their child's day, they are less successful in helping parents to build on and extend children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage parents to share information about what their child already knows and can do, and use this to help plan for their development right from the start
- support parents' confidence further to support their child's learning at home.

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 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 pre-school.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Management ensures staff robustly check all areas of the provision before children arrive and minimise hazards throughout the session. They make sure staff keep their child protection knowledge updated through training, discussions during team meetings and by reading new guidance. Staff know to report any concerns to help keep children safe. Management monitors the educational programmes and tracks the development of individual and groups of children effectively to ensure every child is progressing well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff help children explore mathematical concepts, such as in and out, up and down. For instance, children roll balls down pipes and dash to catch them at the other end. Staff support children to develop their creativity in different ways. Children become engrossed during pretend play, using tools to make mud pies for their friends. Staff encourage children to collect resources, for example, to use during their creative activities. On a woodland walk, children enjoy gathering leaves and twigs. Staff extend children's problem-solving skills using a range of questions that help them to think and work things out. They have helped children to experience nature in the wider world. Children have explored the life cycle of the butterfly by observing a chrysalis change over time and excitedly releasing the butterfly outdoors when they are ready.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thoroughly enjoy their daily outdoor play times. Staff support all children to take manageable risks in their play. Children clamber over tyres and giggle as they chase after their friends. They climb, balance and manoeuvre around obstacles on their tricycles. Staff provide a broad range of healthy fruits, vegetables and drinks for children's snack times. Children develop an awareness of a healthy diet and lifestyle. Staff encourage children to take turns to listen and talk with their friends. All children develop a 'can do' attitude to learning. They grow in confidence and become increasingly independent.

Outcomes for children are good

Children freely access an interesting and challenging range of resources and activities, and choose what to do and where to play. Children have a growing interest in books. They engage with puppets and other props, which absorb them in the stories. Children learn early writing skills. They make marks and enjoy mixing colours at the painting table. Older children are beginning to write their names on their work. Children learn a good range of skills for the next phase in their learning, including the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	218135
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1087651
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	26
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Dunston Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908434
Date of previous inspection	14 March 2014
Telephone number	07870 467360

Dunston Pre-School Playgroup registered in 1976 and is managed by a voluntary committee. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, two hold level 3 and one holds level 2. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until midday Monday to Friday, and from midday until 3pm on Monday and Thursday. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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