

St. Philips Playgroup

St. Philips Community Centre, Higher Dean Street, Radcliffe, MANCHESTER, M26 3TE



Inspection date	15 June 2017
Previous inspection date	14 January 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

- The experienced manager and her staff reflect on and evaluate the quality of the playgroup. They consider the views of parents when planning future changes that impact on children's experiences.
- Staff observe children and assess what they can do. They use this information to plan a wide range of exciting activities both indoors and outside. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and development.
- The manager carefully monitors children's progress. She supports staff to identify gaps in children's learning and helps them to provide the support they need to make good progress.
- Staff are caring and provide a warm welcome to children and parents as they arrive at the playgroup. This helps children to settle quickly and supports their social and emotional development.
- Parents speak highly of the nurturing relationships staff develop with their children. They, particularly, value the daily discussions staff have and feel well informed of their child's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, some staff are too quick to offer their help with things that children could try to do for themselves.
- Opportunities for staff to share their skills and expertise to help develop their teaching further have not been developed.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities for children to 'have a go' and try to do things for themselves and support them in developing their independence skills fully
- provide opportunities for staff to share their skills and expertise to help improve their teaching skills even further.

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 completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the administrator. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working within the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views in written form.

Inspector

Denise Farrington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Overall, the manager supports her staff effectively. She observes them as they work with children and makes suggestions to help them develop their practice further. The manager also targets future training opportunities to help develop staff's skills. For example, recent letters and sounds training is successfully used. Staff provide older children with activities which help to develop their ability to hear the sounds that letters make in spoken words. These help to prepare them for their move to school. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff are clear about identifying signs that would give them cause for concern over a child's welfare. They know how to report any concerns to ensure children are protected. Staff complete daily checks of the environment to ensure it remains a safe place for children to play in.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff understand how young children learn. They give high priority to developing children's communication, physical and social skills. Overall, staff talk to children as they play, they ask questions and pose simple problems to help extend their learning further. They gently introduce new words during their conversations with children. For example, as children play on the computer, staff introduce words, such as 'delete'. Children learn to recognise numbers and confidently count as they play. For example, during play in the 'workshop', children are encouraged to count how many times they turn the toy screwdriver as they pretend to mend bicycles.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather important information from parents about children's care routines when they start. This helps to ensure children settle well and enjoy their time at the playgroup. Staff are always on hand to offer praise and gentle encouragement. This helps to build children's self-esteem and confidence. Staff support children to manage their behaviour effectively. Children have a good understanding of staff's expectations and behave well. Staff talk to children about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. They provide a range of healthy snacks and ensure all children have opportunities to play in the well-resourced outdoor area. Staff sensitively support children to recognise and respect the differences between themselves and other members of the community.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are active and curious learners who make decisions about what they would like to play with. They enjoy solving problems and play very well together. Children negotiate, share and take turns. All children make good progress from the time they start at the playgroup. They learn a wide range of skills that helps to prepare them for their future learning, including their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	316836
Local authority	Bury
Inspection number	1087791
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 - 4
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	St. Philips Community Centre Management Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903036
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2014
Telephone number	07943313355

St. Philips Playgroup registered in 1984. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am to midday and on Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm to 2.55pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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