

# Greatfield Playgroup

Hillview Community Centre, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 3FZ



<b>Inspection date</b>	22 June 2017
Previous inspection date	31 January 2013

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 new manager and her team have worked well to raise the quality of care and teaching. They are committed to providing a high-quality setting and regularly review all areas of practice to drive further improvements.
- Staff are enthusiastic and welcoming on arrival. Children are happy and confident at the playgroup. They have a strong sense of belonging and are emotionally secure.
- Overall, children make good progress from their starting points. The manager checks how well all children in the playgroup are doing and identifies those who require extra help or any gaps in the curriculum. Staff use their knowledge of each individual child to plan activities that help children move forward in their learning.
- Children's behaviour is very good. Staff are very positive role models for children and encourage them to care about others. Children share, take turns and listen well.
- Staff encourage older children's early literacy and counting skills well. For example, they recognise numbers and letters and know what their written names look like.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss chances to build on younger children's interests and extend their learning.
- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to explain to children why healthy food and hygiene practices are important as part of a healthy lifestyle.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make full use of opportunities to challenge younger children's interests and extend their learning
- make the most of all opportunities to further develop children's understanding of healthy lifestyles.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children in play activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at the available resources.
- The inspector had discussions with the chair of the committee and the manager about leadership and management, safeguarding and how they evaluate practice.
- The inspector had discussions with parents and took account of their views, along with written testimonials.
- The inspector looked at children's information, attendance records and development records, and talked to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the committee and staff, and checked staff qualifications.

### Inspector

Jan Harvey

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders and staff keep up to date with child protection legislation. They have a very good understanding of the procedure to follow should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The new committee and management have made many improvements to benefit children and families. For example, staff now use robust systems to identify and manage risk throughout the areas children play. Regular supervision and monitoring of staff practice are effective. Staff are well deployed to support and supervise children throughout the day. Parents are happy with the care their children receive. They recognise the positive changes made by the new team and state that their children are 'developing at a faster rate than before' and are 'ready for starting school'.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The committee ensures that staff continually develop their teaching skills. For example, recent training to recognise the characteristics of how children learn has ensured that there is now a good balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. Teaching is strong overall. Staff focus on children's communication and language skills well. For example, they use hand signs, speak clearly in short sentences and ask simple questions throughout activities. Children play imaginatively with good levels of cooperation and are able to develop their own ideas, for instance, pretending to be superheroes who do good things for their friends. Staff encourage children's early writing skills particularly well. For example, they model writing as children role play and make their own passports in the travel agents.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The caring and friendly staff praise children regularly for their efforts and achievements, which helps them to learn and builds their self-esteem. For example, children learn to persevere as they put on and take off items of school uniform laid out in the playhouse. Children develop good physical skills and experience closely supervised risks. For instance, they eagerly negotiate around each other on ride-on toys, learning how to keep play spaces safe and prevent accidents.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children learn the physical, social and communication skills they need for their next stage of learning and their move to school. For example, older children learn the differences between letters and the sounds they make, and when to use capital letters. Children build good relationships with their friends. They share stories and frequently use books to increase their vocabulary and talk about what they have been doing with their families. Overall, all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, are confident and well motivated to learn.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	101515
<b>Local authority</b>	Gloucestershire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1073050
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	24
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	32
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Greatfield Playgroup Committee
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP519913
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	31 January 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	07951 214591

Greatfield Playgroup registered in 1990. It is run by a voluntary committee of parents. It operates from the community centre in the Up Hatherley area of Cheltenham. The playgroup offers care from Monday to Thursday between 9am and midday, and all day Friday, during school term times only. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The playgroup employs four staff to work directly with the children; of these, one holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 4 and two hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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