

Three Bears Playgroup

Wilkinson Drive, Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 2ES



Inspection date	11 July 2017
Previous inspection date	16 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Since the last inspection, the management team has successfully made many improvements for the benefit children and families using the playgroup. Information gained from the new assessment and tracking system is used exceedingly well to identify and close any emerging gaps in children's learning.
- Staff are exceptionally skilled at promoting children's critical thinking skills. They use every opportunity to encourage children to develop their own ideas and work out their own ways of doing things. Teaching is consistently of the highest quality and is highly responsive to children's needs.
- Children are extremely well behaved. They respond exceptionally well to staff's high expectations. Children are very caring and responsive to the needs and feelings of others. Staff are very good role models. They make excellent use of opportunities to introduce the concept of fairness and cooperation into children's play.
- Highly effective partnerships with parents and other professionals ensure each child and their family receive excellent levels of consistent support and guidance. Staff use a wide range of methods to successfully engage parents in all aspects of their child's learning.
- Children are very eager and enthusiastic to learn. They demonstrate high levels of curiosity and imagination as they play. They work together cooperatively, showing tolerance and respect towards each other. Older children use expressive language well to explain their ideas and to clarify their thinking.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to support staff in further developing their high-quality teaching skills, to help maintain the highest level of achievement for all children.

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 evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The well-qualified manager is an excellent role model. She leads by example and ensures all staff share her same high expectations of what each child can achieve. The manager monitors and supervises staff practice exceptionally well. She has further plans to implement new ways of supporting staff to ensure their teaching continues to be of the highest quality. In-house training is used exceedingly well to build on and to expand upon staff expertise. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are extremely knowledgeable about child protection issues. They are exceptionally confident about the action to take to protect children and keep them safe from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their expert knowledge of how children learn best through first-hand experiences to enthuse children and motivate them to learn. Staff skilfully adapt their interactions to ensure each child is provided with high levels of challenge. They make excellent use of spontaneous learning opportunities to introduce new ideas and promote children's curiosity. Staff use children's current interests exceptionally well to encourage them to construct with a purpose in mind. For example, they suggest children first draw a picture what they want to make. Staff remind them to refer to their design while considering what materials they need to successfully complete their model. This helps children develop real pride and a sense of achievement in their completed work. Staff place a very high focus on promoting children's language and communication skills, especially for those children needing additional support to close any gaps in their learning. Whole group activities capture children's interest and are used very successfully to help younger children learn from their older peers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff place a high priority on establishing meaningful relationships with children and their families from when they first start attending. Parents attend a new starters evening. This helps promote a shared approach to supporting children's learning and development. Parents are highly complimentary about the playgroup. They praise the commitment and dedication of the staff team and the support and guidance they provide. Staff use well-established routines very effectively to help children learn how to keep healthy and safe.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make consistently high rates of progress given their starting points and capabilities. They are highly motivated and eager to join in. Children are very self-assured and confident to speak out. They rapidly develop the key skills to support their move to school. Children listen attentively and respond with interest to what others have to say. They proudly take responsibility for small tasks and are becoming increasingly independent in managing their own personal needs. Children demonstrate high levels of concentration, such as while drawing and labelling their pictures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY300030
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1092204
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	26
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Kesgrave Three Bears Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP525247
Date of previous inspection	16 June 2015
Telephone number	01473 635255

Three Bears Playgroup registered in 2004. The playgroup employs 10 members of childcare staff. Nine staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, ranging from level 3 to 6, including the manager who has early years professional status. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 3.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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