

Derwent Road Playgroup

United Reformed Church Hall,, Derwent Road, St Helens, WA11 9AT



Inspection date

14 September 2017

Previous inspection date

13 June 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 provide children with stimulating activities that enthuse them and spark their curiosity. They have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop, and overall the quality of teaching is good.
- Staff are sharply focused on helping children to be well prepared for school and the next stage of their learning. Children make good progress. They are independent, confident learners who enjoy making their own decisions about what they want to play with and the activities they wish to participate in.
- Children are physically active and have regular access to the outdoor environment. They are encouraged to investigate and explore the natural world around them. Staff use the outdoor area effectively to extend and enhance children's learning experiences.
- Staff work closely with parents, other professionals and local schools. Children's individual care and learning needs are well met. Parents are extremely complimentary about the service they receive and the progress that their children have made since attending the playgroup.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to strengthen children's understanding of mathematical concepts during play and everyday routines.
- Staff do not always give children time to respond to the questions asked in order for them to develop their thoughts and communication skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff to develop their teaching skills so that children further advance their mathematical language and understanding of mathematical concepts during play and everyday routines
- provide children with appropriate time to answer questions and develop their thinking and speaking skills.

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 playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the playgroup's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their written views.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff keep up to date with safeguarding training and have a thorough understanding of how to report concerns about a child's welfare. Recruitment processes are robust. The performance of staff is reviewed constructively to help them to develop their teaching skills, knowledge and understanding. Staff training is used to good effect. The manager makes good use of self-evaluation, which includes the views of staff, parents and children, to reflect on their practice. The manager and deputy manager monitor children's progress effectively. For example, they analyse data and take prompt action to reduce any identified gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The experienced and well-qualified staff team knows the children very well and is responsive to their learning needs and interests. Staff observe children as they play in order to identify their developmental stage. Detailed assessments of children's learning enable staff to plan activities that support children to achieve their next steps. Children use their imaginative skills well. For example, they pretend to be a shopkeeper and invite staff into their play. Children are well supported to develop their early literacy skills. They enjoy looking at books independently and with staff. Furthermore, they have plentiful opportunities to make marks for a purpose and their achievements are proudly displayed in the playgroup.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form positive relationships with staff, who are patient, sensitive and positive. Children gain confidence and high levels of self-esteem. For example, staff encourage them to create self-portraits and talk positively about similarities and differences. The environment is bright, welcoming and well resourced. Children are happy and enjoy their time at the playgroup. Staff support children to develop an understanding of what is expected of them. Together they have created golden rules and children are encouraged to help tidy away toys, share and take turns. Children's behaviour is good. Children learn about healthy lifestyles and how to keep themselves safe. For example, they follow good hygiene routines and are supported with the safe use of scissors. The daily routine includes a variety of activities for children to develop good physical skills and coordination.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress, including those who benefit from additional funding. Young children are becoming skilful communicators. They are able to express their needs and engage in conversations with their peers. They develop good social skills as they form new friendships and play alongside each other. Older children begin to develop an understanding of environmental sounds and recognise letters from their name. They concentrate for prolonged periods on their chosen activity. They enjoy creative experiences and handle tools with increasing confidence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY269075
Local authority	St. Helens
Inspection number	1087913
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	30
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Derwent Road Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521637
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2014
Telephone number	01744 20729

Derwent Road Playgroup registered in 2003. It is run by a committee and operates from designated areas in the United Reformed Church Hall in St. Helens. The setting is open Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am to 11.45am on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and afternoon sessions are Monday to Friday from 12.45pm until 3.45pm. The setting employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 4, four hold level 3 qualifications and two hold level 2 qualifications.

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