

Rainbow Playgroup

The Auction Centre, Eastwood Road,, Oundle, PE8 4DF



Inspection date 11 October 2017
Previous inspection date 10 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 are kind and caring. An effective key-person system is in place and children develop secure attachments to their key person.
- Staff provide a stimulating environment for the children. Children can make choices about what they want to play with from the varied resources that are easily accessible to them. Children show they are confident and have good levels of self-esteem.
- Teaching is strong overall. Staff observe and sensitively interact with children as they play. They offer guidance and support to help children consider the feelings of others. Consequently, children learn to treat each other with respect.
- Partnerships with parents are successful. Staff provide a good range of feedback to the parents about their children's day and development to support continuity of care. Parents speak very highly of the playgroup.
- Self-evaluation methods are effective and identify areas for development. The manager takes into account the views of parents, staff and children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of staff performance is not yet incisive enough to pinpoint how individual staff members can raise the quality of their practice to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the arrangements for performance management to help identify and build on staff's teaching skills to raise the quality of practice to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector engaged in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled various documents, including risk assessments, a range of policies and procedures and the provider's evidence of self-evaluation.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector considered the views of parents in discussions during the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Sykes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are aware of their role and responsibilities in keeping children safe. They have completed relevant training and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager completes regular supervisions of staff to help to ensure their ongoing suitability. The manager and her staff team monitor children's progress so any gaps in their learning are quickly identified and addressed. The manager has good links with other settings that children also attend and with schools that the children will eventually move on to. She shares information with them to help maintain consistency in children's care and learning. Effective policies and procedures are followed to underpin the smooth management of the playgroup.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carry out regular observations of children's play and assess children's development accurately. They carefully plan children's next steps to ensure that they meet each child's needs. Children's communication and language skills are supported very effectively. Children bring familiar stories to life as they use puppets and predict what will happen next. Staff are sensitive with their interactions, supporting children well. For example, children pretend to make an ice cream parlour and excitedly work together as they decide what flavours they will sell. Staff encourage them to write their own menus, which helps to develop their early writing skills. Children's mathematical development is supported well. For instance, they count out the cups and plates they need for their friends at snack time. Staff are particularly skilled at building on children's interests. For example, children find some spiders and bugs. Staff provide insect reference books for children to use and engage children in meaningful conversations about their finds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate that they are happy and flourish in this warm and welcoming playgroup. Staff are highly responsive to children's needs and recognise when some children need extra emotional support. Staff are good role models. They use calm and consistent strategies to help children to understand the expected rules for their behaviour. Children learn how to keep themselves safe from harm as staff give them gentle reminders, such as to use wooden planks carefully when building with them outside. As a result, children understand how to use resources and equipment sensibly. Children learn about the wider world, for instance, as they go for walks in their community or find out about festivals, such as Thanksgiving Day.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. Children are confident and show good levels of independence as they, for example, make their own choices of play. Children enjoy active, physical play outside and use their imagination well. For instance, they use old car tyres and wooden planks to create machines with working levers. Children learn the key skills they need in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY465195
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1102557
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	Catherine Louise Goldsmith
Registered person unique reference number	RP512668
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2014
Telephone number	07803 241 409

Rainbow Playgroup registered in 2013. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold childcare qualifications at level 3 or above. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday during school term times only. Opening times are from 8.30am until 3pm, Monday to Thursday and from 8.30am until 1pm on Fridays. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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