

Sandford & District Playgroup

The Parish Hall, Fannys Lane, Sandford, Crediton, Devon, EX17 4NE



Inspection date

17 October 2017

Previous inspection date

27 November 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

- Children are well behaved and happy, with good self-esteem. Staff are good role models and show children they are valued, teaching them to show respect and care for others. Children's positive behaviour shows they feel emotionally secure.
- Children make good progress relative to their starting points. Staff use their observations well to plan for future learning. Effective tracking systems help them to identify any gaps in learning and to address these through the planning process.
- Staff have good relationships with parents. They tell them daily about their children's activities and what they enjoyed. Parents receive regular reports so they can see their children's progress and discuss this with staff. Staff share information well with other settings children attend, to ensure there is consistency in planning children's next steps.
- Good self-evaluation helps the management committee and manager identify and prioritise areas for improvement. The manager monitors action plans well to make sure changes have a positive impact on children's learning. For example, extending outdoor learning activities has particularly supported younger children's confidence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently use information from parents about their children's learning at home to inform the assessment and planning process further.
- Activities to develop children's understanding of technology sometimes lack challenge, particularly for older children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use in the assessment and planning process of information from parents about their children's achievements at home
- provide older children with suitably challenging opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of technology.

Inspection activities

- The inspector and the manager conducted a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector observed staff and children engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with parents, children, staff, the manager, and members of the management committee.
- The inspector sampled required documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, and talked to staff about their understanding of these.
- The inspector sampled children's progress records and assessments, and talked to the manager about how she monitors these.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management committee and the manager provide good support for staff. They encourage staff to develop their skills through training and links with professional networks. The manager's good monitoring helps her to prioritise where training will have most benefit to children's learning. For example, she identified that staff missed opportunities to extend children's understanding of mathematics. Following training, staff now effectively thread aspects of this into all activities. They have identified improvements in children's knowledge, particularly in their understanding of number and simple calculation. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of local safeguarding procedures. They know what to do if they have child protection concerns. There is a suitably trained committee member to support staff with safeguarding issues.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan a very good variety of interesting and challenging activities that engage children well. For example, while learning about Japan, staff taught children how to roll their own sushi and make origami animals, developing their fine motor skills very effectively. Staff use their good communication skills very effectively to extend children's learning. For example, following a story about owls, staff talked to children about different types of owl, such as snowy, tawny and barn owls. They looked at pictures of these, talking about what they eat and how they make their nests. Staff organise resources well to provide children with a welcoming environment. They make sure there are cosy spaces for those who want to play quietly. For example, children help themselves from the good range of books and take these into the tent to read together.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's safety awareness is very good. For example, they promptly responded to the fire-drill whistle and followed evacuation procedures well, including those children who had not taken part in a fire drill before. Children enjoy learning about their local community and regularly visit the school, shop and church with staff. They show a very good understanding of road safety as they walk from place to place. For example, although the road appeared clear, children listened carefully to make sure there were no approaching vehicles out of sight.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need to be ready for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. Children of all ages benefit from the strong partnerships between the setting and the village school. For example, they have lunch every day at school. Two-year-old children are confident and independent as they line up to choose their meal. Older children show very good social skills as they talk to their friends who have recently started school, and get to know their future teachers.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106025
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1070068
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	26
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Sandford Preschool
Registered person unique reference number	RP517772
Date of previous inspection	27 November 2014
Telephone number	01363 772 640

Sandford and District Playgroup is run by a parent committee. It opened in 1971. It operates from Sandford village hall, in the village of Sandford, near Crediton. The playgroup is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 4pm, term time only. The playgroup provides free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are five members of staff, one of whom is the administrator. The manager is a qualified teacher, two members of staff hold childcare qualifications at level 3, and one holds a qualification at level 2.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2017

