

Sandbach Heath (St John's) Playgroup

School Lane, Sandbach Heath, Sandbach, CW11 2LS



Inspection date

20 October 2017

Previous inspection date

3 November 2016

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 arrive at playgroup happy and ready to play. Practitioners are welcoming and attentive. Children demonstrate that they feel secure. Their progress and well-being are promoted effectively.
- Leaders have taken effective steps to improve the playgroup since the last inspection. Members of the management committee are appropriately vetted before they take up their role.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents feel well informed about activities and children's progress. They praise the caring practitioners. Parents say they are encouraged to continue children's learning at home.
- The manager plans a programme of professional development for the well-qualified team. She makes sure that practitioners attend all mandatory training and implement what they learn. This helps to promote children's welfare.
- Practitioners make observations of children's learning. They accurately summarise children's achievements. The manager regularly checks that children make good progress from starting points established on entry to the playgroup.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Adult-led activities are sometimes not planned well enough to challenge every child who participates 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:

- sharpen the planning of adult-led activities, so that every child is challenged to the highest level and makes rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors. She assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with practitioners and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of practitioners and members of the committee.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Susan King

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager, practitioners and members of the committee demonstrate their strong commitment to achieving the best outcomes for children. The manager monitors the quality of teaching and plans an effective programme of professional development. For example, one practitioner attended training about communication and language development and provides ongoing guidance for the team. As a result, the teaching of communication and language has improved. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Practitioners know what to do if they are concerned that a child may be at risk of abuse and neglect.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Practitioners set out activities that match children's interests and encourage them to explore. They skilfully join in with children's play and this helps to promote children's progress. For example, children are eager to play with the train set. Practitioners talk with them about the trains. This encourages children to think out loud and learn new words. Children learn songs that help them to understand about numbers and counting. They join in with the words and actions and this helps to promote their understanding and confidence. Practitioners share information about children's development with other settings, including school. This helps to promote continuity in children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Practitioners are friendly and caring role models and children learn to respect and help each other. Practitioners remind children to make healthy choices in their diet. For example, children learn why they should eat the fruit from their lunchbox before the biscuit. Practitioners use resources well in their teaching. They worked with parents to improve the outdoor area and children learn actively in the fresh air. For example, they discover the properties of water when they pour it into the drainpipes. Practitioners implement robust policies and procedures that help to keep children safe. For example, children wash their hands before they eat and learn why this is important.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are eager learners who acquire the skills and knowledge that prepare them well for their move on to school. Children whose starting points are below those of children of the same age make good progress and gaps in attainment close steadily. Children follow familiar routines and instructions. For example, they know that they must stop to listen when they hear the bell. Children can link some written letter shapes to the sounds they hear at the beginning of words. Older children begin to blend sounds to build simple words. Children have favourite books and can answer questions about events in the stories. Children happily join in with rhyming lines and repeated phrases in familiar stories.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305284
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1078097
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Sandbach Heath (St John's) Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524507
Date of previous inspection	3 November 2016
Telephone number	01270 761505

Sandbach Heath (St John's) Playgroup registered in 2016. The playgroup employs four members of childcare staff. Of these; one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, two hold qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, during school terms. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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