

The Playgroup @ Archibald First School



Archibald First School, Archibald Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 1EB

Inspection date	28 November 2017
Previous inspection date	16 September 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 a good range of feedback to the parents about their children's day and development to support continuity of care. Parents report that they are very happy with the service provided and that their children are happy and making good progress.
- Partnerships with other settings are strong. The manager works closely with the staff at the host school, helping to develop plans for children's move on to nursery.
- Self-evaluation methods are effective and identify areas for development. The manager takes into account the views of parents, staff and children.
- The manager leads a well-qualified staff team. She works directly with children, demonstrating high-quality teaching skills to engage children's enthusiasm for learning. She monitors children progress and ensures staff use observation and assessment to accurately identify individual children's stage of development.
- Staff work effectively as a team to meet the individual needs of the children. They help children to settle very quickly and sensitively support them to feel safe and emotionally secure. Children develop in self-confidence and are motivated to learn.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to offer further challenge to children to fully extend their learning and build on their mathematical understanding.
- Children have few opportunities to use technology to further promote their ability to learn how things work.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to consistently challenge and extend children's learning and mathematical skills even further
- provide opportunities for children to learn more about technology.

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

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a thorough understanding of what to do if they are concerned about the welfare of a child. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust. Staff benefit from strong leadership and support from the manager to help their ongoing development. They attend regular training to update their skills and knowledge and several are working towards higher qualifications. Staff describe, after attending training on sustained shared thinking, how they have introduced more open-ended resources. This has helped to increase the opportunities for children to use their imagination and creativity. The manager and staff accurately track and monitor children's progress. This helps them to highlight gaps in learning and ensure children receive the support required so they continue to make good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and develop, overall. They get down to the children's level and interact purposefully as they play alongside each other. Staff plan imaginative activities which build on children's interests and enthusiasms. For example, children have many opportunities to experiment with messy, malleable materials or investigate the natural world. Staff, generally, create innovative ways for children to develop new skills. For example, in the nature garden children are keen to use scissors to trim the shrubs. This helps them to develop their physical skills and hand-to-eye coordination well. Staff offer children opportunities to practise their writing skills, such as when they supply chalk and paint for children to make marks. They use an array of opportunities to help develop children's communication skills. For example, they use sign language and continually extend children's vocabulary as they join in their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well supported when they start attending the playgroup. Settling-in visits are provided for as long as they are needed to ensure that children are settled and parents are reassured. Children's behaviour is good. Staff value and praise children's good behaviour, promoting their self-esteem. Good hygiene practices are promoted as children wash their hands before snack and after outdoor play. Staff encourage children to try nutritious snacks, helping them develop a positive attitude to food. Regular outdoor play supports children's physical development well.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. They develop many skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning, such as the move on to school. For example, older children are developing good literacy skills. They learn to recognise their name in print when self-registering at the beginning of the session. Children eagerly look at books with staff and recall familiar stories. They quickly master skills, such as putting on their coats, helping them to become independent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY475457
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	1105790
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	16
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	The Playgroup @ Archibald First School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP908011
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2014
Telephone number	07460295063

The Playgroup @ Archibald First School registered in 2014. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, two hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 2. The playgroup opens Monday to Thursday, from 9am until 3pm, term time only. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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