

Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup



Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup, 37 Burgess Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB25 9ND

Inspection date 13 December 2017
Previous inspection date 5 July 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- The manager and staff have worked hard to address the weaknesses from the previous inspection. For example, the provider has notified Ofsted of the necessary information regarding committee members to ensure suitability checks are undertaken.
- Parents are fully involved in their children's learning from the very beginning. For example, home visits are implemented in order to obtain children's starting points.
- The manager monitors the good progress of individual and specific groups of children, including those in receipt of additional funding. Gaps in children's learning are swiftly identified and closed.
- The playgroup has established strong links with the community and participates in local events, such as the village fete. This helps children to develop a sense of self and of belonging.
- The well-established staff team works effectively with the local authority and continually aspires to further improve practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff do not give children sufficient time to answer questions and extend their learning, to enhance their curiosity and thinking.
- Staff do not organise large-group times well enough to help children develop their listening and attention skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance teaching practice to give children more time to respond to questions, to develop their curiosity and thinking skills
- review how group activities are planned and organised so that children are fully engaged and can build on their listening and attention 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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Marie Walker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff undergo enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The manager and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. They are clear about the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children in their care. The manager undertakes staff supervision meetings to raise the general quality of teaching. Staff make the most of opportunities to continue their professional development. This has a positive effect on children's learning. Additional funding is used well to support children's development. For example, staff attend training courses to target children's speech and language development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well. They use observations and assessments to plan for children's next steps in learning. Staff support children's mathematical development effectively. They assist children in completing complex puzzles, encouraging them to manipulate the pieces in a number of ways to fit the holes. Staff use positional language to help children foster an awareness of shape and space. Similarly, children use scissors independently to cut out shapes in a variety of sizes. Staff urge children to identify shapes by counting the number of sides. These activities help children to strengthen the small muscles in their hands in preparation for writing.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide families with a warm and friendly welcome. Children build strong relationships with their key person. For example, they eagerly request staff to join them in their play. Staff are good role models. They employ effective behaviour strategies, such as sand timers, to encourage children to share and take turns. Staff encourage children to be physically active. They have ample opportunity throughout the day to access the outdoor environment. Children enjoy energetic play. They jump, hop and ride scooters in order to challenge their physical skills. Children develop a greater understanding of the world around them. For instance, flowers are planted in the garden to help children develop an awareness of growth, decay and change over time.

Outcomes for children are good

All children enjoy their time at playgroup. They particularly enjoy imaginative play, drawing on first-hand experiences. For example, children re-enact a train journey to London. This supports their abstract thinking and helps to foster their language and literacy skills. Children display an understanding of phonics. They confidently identify the letters in their name. Children are making good progress in their learning. They successfully gain the skills required to move on to the next stage of their education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221775
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1109100
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519011
Date of previous inspection	5 July 2017
Telephone number	07808 357 729

Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup registered in 1992. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds level 4. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until midday, and from midday until 3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, sessions run from 9am until midday and there is a lunch club from midday until 1pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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