

Crowhurst Playgroup

The Village Hall, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9AJ



Inspection date	22 January 2018
Previous inspection date	12 October 2015

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 benefit from a well-organised, inviting learning environment. Staff make good use of the space available. Children easily choose from a wide variety of interesting resources and activities in the hall and outside.
- Staff plan and provide stimulating experiences for children based on a thorough understanding of their interests and needs. Children are eager to join in and motivated to learn. They make good progress in their development from their starting points.
- Parents are kept well informed and staff successfully involve them in their children's learning. For instance, staff provide daily feedback as well as regular progress updates and suggestions for activities to continue at home.
- The manager and staff are strongly motivated to continually develop the provision. For instance, since the last inspection they have successfully made changes to the environment and routines to encourage children's choice and independence more effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not work as closely as possible with all of the other early years settings that children attend, to help develop a highly consistent approach to children's learning.
- Staff have not fully established systems for gathering precise, detailed information from parents about children's achievements and abilities before they start, to help inform initial planning and ongoing assessments.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the partnerships further with the other early years settings that children attend, to help develop a more consistent, shared approach to children's learning and care
- seek more precise initial information from parents about what their children already know and can do, to help quickly identify children's starting points and plan for their learning from the outset.

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 to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, such as evidence of staff suitability, children's records and the setting's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Rebecca Khabbazi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager completes thorough checks of staff to make sure they are suitable to work with children. Staff have a good understanding of how to recognise and report any concerns about a child's well-being. The manager monitors staff performance effectively. For instance, she meets with staff individually and regularly observes their practice. Staff reflect on their practice and seek regular feedback from parents to help them identify any areas to improve. They make good use of what they learn through training opportunities to help further develop the provision. For instance, a training scheme related to children's health and physical development helped them introduce new physical challenges and review the organisation of resources.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff monitor children's development closely and get to know them well. They work effectively with parents and other professionals to establish clear plans to help children catch up if needed. Staff support children's communication and language skills effectively. For instance, small-group key-person sessions take the needs of all children into account and give everyone an opportunity to talk and listen. Staff follow children's interests well, such as making sure they have tools and equipment available to extend their sand play. They encourage children to express their ideas and use their imaginations. For example, children enjoyed choosing exciting materials to decorate colourful paper plates.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff act as good role models and offer children calm, consistent guidance and support. Children behave well and learn to value one another. For instance, they learn to say 'hello' in French and sing songs in languages their friends speak at home. Staff check the premises thoroughly to help make sure they are safe and secure. They are vigilant in supervising children, for instance, they make sure enough staff are inside and outside. They help children learn useful skills to keep themselves safe, such as how to carry a stool carefully to the sand tray. Children have daily opportunities to be active and they play inside or outside as they wish throughout the session.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident and quickly grow in independence. For instance, they competently help prepare fruit at snack time and manage their own waterproof trousers and boots when they play outside. Children get along well together, taking turns with the equipment and resources. They develop good physical skills, such as balancing carefully on beams when they take part in an obstacle course. Children count as they play and learn about mathematical concepts, for instance, as they empty and fill containers in the sand tray. They join in with songs and stories enthusiastically and communicate well. They are well prepared for their future learning and for the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109407
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1121106
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	24
Number of children on roll	8
Name of registered person	Crowhurst Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP911555
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2015
Telephone number	01424 830329

Crowhurst Playgroup registered in 1973. It is based at the village hall in Crowhurst, East Sussex. The setting operates across two sites. It cares for children at the village hall from 9am to midday on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time. There are four staff; of these, one is a qualified teacher and two hold relevant qualifications at level 3. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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