

Memorial Hall Playgroup

Stamford Street, Glenfield, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE3 8DL



Inspection date	1 February 2018
Previous inspection date	12 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

- The manager and staff promote a strong ethos of nurture and care. This helps children to form secure attachments with staff and develop their emotional well-being and confidence. Parents praise the care and support that children and their families receive.
- Staff are good role models. They effectively support children's positive behaviour and consistently model respect and consideration for each other. Children are very polite and behave very well. They make good progress in their learning.
- Staff work hard at the playgroup to successfully offer a wide range of stimulating activities. They consider the needs and interests of all children, including those that prefer quieter areas and those that prefer to learn outdoors.
- Staff teach mathematics well. For example, they effectively challenge children to recognise numbers as they play hopscotch and read price labels in the role-play shop. Younger children confidently count objects as they play. Parents comment that staff equip children with good mathematic skills to start school.
- Staff skilfully promote children's language and communication skills. They encourage children to share their views and ideas and respond enthusiastically as children approach them to talk about their homes and families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager's observations of staff's practice do not yet fully identify the support and training that they require to help them achieve the highest levels of teaching.
- The manager has not fully developed the monitoring and tracking of different groups of children to identify gaps in their learning and help them make even better progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen observations of staff's practice in order to focus support and training to raise the quality of teaching to the highest level
- build on the systems for monitoring groups of children's progress to extend their learning and development even further.

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 manager. 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

Jane Millward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager effectively evaluates the quality of her provision and encourages contributions from external advisers, staff and parents. She uses this information to target further improvements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff are well trained and have a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of how to keep children safe. They are highly vigilant and maintain a safe environment. The manager strives to build strong partnerships with parents. She has explored different ways to share children's progress with parents and provides easy and open access to children's learning records. Staff receive regular supervision meetings at which the manager also places a strong emphasis on staff's well-being. New members of staff receive good support to help them quickly settle and become part of the well-established staff team.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They actively promote children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. They encourage children to explore the natural world and extend their knowledge of creatures and their habitats. For example, children enjoy using magnifying glasses to identify and describe model bugs and creatures hidden in logs and other natural resources. Children are fascinated as they observe the movements of their playgroup pet, a giant African snail. They enjoy taking responsibility for its care and well-being. Staff make accurate observations across all areas of children's learning and use this information well to plan for children's next steps.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff place a strong focus on developing children's independence and encourage them to freely choose their play. For example, each day, staff temporarily fence an open outside area to provide continuous play opportunities outdoors. Children receive good support to understand how they can benefit from physical exercise and a healthy diet. They enjoy playing games which remind them about healthy food choices. Children are encouraged to learn about the wider world and compare the similarities and differences between their own lives and the lives of others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and gain skills which will help them move to the next stage in their learning, including their move to school. They confidently choose their play and learning and encourage friends to join them. Children develop high levels of concentration and have a can-do attitude as they complete tasks. For example, they take their time drawing pictures, paying good attention to detail. They proudly celebrate their achievements, pegging their creations on the display line. Children confidently use their early literacy and mathematical skills as they play. They enjoy stories, write their names and use numbers and measures during role play. Children show care and consideration towards each other and happily take turns as they play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226443
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1103276
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	282
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Karen Jan Fenton
Registered person unique reference number	RP512657
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2014
Telephone number	07901833189

Memorial Hall Playgroup registered in 1982. It employs five members of staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens during term time only from Monday 8.30am to 12.00 am, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 to 3.30pm, Wednesday and Friday 8.30 am to 1.30 pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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