Wellington Community Playgroup Pre-School



Wellington Youth Centre, Mantle Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8SW

Inspection date Previous inspection date	12 April 2018 20 June 2017		
The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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 enjoy their time at the friendly pre-school and behave well. Passionate staff know children well and plan effectively for their learning. All children make good progress from their starting points.
- There is good partnership working with local safeguarding agencies, parents and professionals to maintain a consistent approach to children's care, learning and development.
- Leaders and managers have made good progress since the last inspection. They have worked together to develop secure action plans to address arising issues. For example, they use a robust system for recording vetting and identification processes to ensure staff are suitable for their role.
- Staff support children's emotional well-being effectively. Children form strong bonds with staff and build friendships. They understand routines and gain a good sense of belonging. For example, on arrival, they know to change into their slippers and find their name card, and do so independently.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently organise small-group activities for older children as effectively as they could, to encourage children's continued involvement and concentration.
- Occasionally, staff are too quick to answer questions and do not give younger children time to process information and respond, to support their critical thinking even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of planned group activities for older children to help them be involved fully and remain focused
- allow younger children more time to process information and respond to questions, to help their critical-thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions as children played inside and discussed their learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with leaders, the manager, staff, parents and children, at convenient times during the inspection. This included discussions on how the group evaluates the provision.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including the group's vetting and suitability arrangements, children's assessment records and policies and procedures.

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Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff ensure children's safety, providing them with a secure environment to explore. Management and staff have good understanding of their responsibilities to report any concerns about a child or a member of staff. Management conducts regular supervisory meetings and annual appraisals to support staff's professional development. Staff use their knowledge and training effectively, for instance, to introduce sign language for the less confident communicators. Management tracks individual children's and groups of children's progress efficiently to ensure they identify any gaps in children's learning and address them promptly. Leaders and managers evaluate the provision effectively. They have identified ways to continue their improvement, such as extending the outdoor provision even further to support children's exploration and creativity.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use assessment effectively and plan exciting activities to support children's interests and next steps. They regularly explore ideas and activities with parents, to support consistency between home and the pre-school. Children use large construction kits well. Staff question older children successfully to help them plan their design, such as a motorcycle. Children understand why they also need to make a helmet to keep themselves safe. They develop good physical skills as they push themselves around on their motorcycles, negotiating space well. Staff engage well in children's imaginative play and help them make connections between experiences, such as the importance of filling up with fuel.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide children who require additional support with well-planned strategies, which meet their individual care and learning needs. Staff model behaviour well and help children gain high levels of self-esteem. They provide specific praise so that children know what they have done well, such as following instructions when handling beanbags. Staff support children's physical well-being effectively. For example, after exercise, staff talk about the changes in their breathing and how they need a drink of water. Children imitate staff and learn to be independent in their health and self-care.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff prepare older children well for school. For example, children learn letters and the sounds they represent in enjoyable ways, and participate enthusiastically. Children are good communicators. For example, they are creative in their storytelling and use language well to explain the consequences of leaving their motorcycle unlocked. Children gain good independence. For example, during snack time they choose their plate and cup, prepare their snack and pour their own drink. Younger children are encouraged to solve problems, such as how to reconnect the train carriages, and show interest in how the magnets work.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457294
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1108070
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	26
Number of children on roll	13
Name of registered person	Wellington Community Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522294
Date of previous inspection	20 June 2017
Telephone number	07875 604954

Wellington Community Playgroup Pre-School registered at the current premises in 2013 and has been operating since 1992. It is situated within Wellington Youth Centre in Wellington, Somerset, and is run by a voluntary committee. The pre-school operates Monday to Wednesday from 9.15am to 3.45pm and on Thursday and Friday from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs a manager who holds an early years qualification at level 6. She is supported by her deputy, who holds an early years qualification at level 4, and two other members of staff who hold early years qualifications at level 2.

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