

Playbox Pre-School

Pennycross Methodist Church Hall, Pridham Lane, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon, PL2 3PZ



Inspection date

17 May 2018

Previous inspection date

15 December 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

- The management team is conscientious and has a strong drive to provide high-quality learning experiences for children. Managers actively consult with parents and children about positive changes they make, to improve outcomes for children. They have provided additional activities to promote children's enjoyment and involvement in their learning.
- Children are sociable, take turns amicably with each other and cooperate well during activities. Staff manage children's behaviour effectively. For example, they give them individual responsibilities during routines and group activities that support their confidence and self-esteem well.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. There is an effective two-way flow of information that promotes a consistent approach to children's development and strengthens their learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff get to know children well and use their accurate observations to assess their levels of development effectively. This helps them to plan activities that help children to achieve the next steps in their learning and move forward in their development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are few opportunities for younger children to explore and investigate a wide range of resources to develop their curiosity and sensory skills.
- Staff do not consistently encourage older children to follow their own ideas to fully develop their imaginations and individual creativity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for younger children to explore and investigate a wide range of resources and activities to extend their sensory skills and curiosity
- provide more encouragement for older children to follow their own ideas to develop their individual creativity further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff engaged in activities with children indoors and outside.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the deputy manager and discussed the quality of teaching and learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including children's records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector talked to children and parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff know the signs that might cause them to be concerned about a child's welfare. They are clear about local safeguarding procedures. The management team recruits and supervises staff effectively and provides good support to their ongoing professional development. For example, staff attended training that improved their skills in supporting children to manage their own risks during outdoor play. This helped children to develop confidence in their own abilities and extended their physical skills well. The management team tracks children's development conscientiously and uses funding effectively to promptly address any possible gaps in their learning. There are good partnerships with outside agencies and other providers to promote continuity and consistency in children's learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are experienced in childcare and, overall, have a good understanding of how to support children's learning through play. They interact positively with children during activities. For example, they introduce new words to younger children to develop their vocabulary further and skilfully encourage older children to extend their sentences. Children become confident communicators. They listen carefully to others and express themselves fluently. Staff give good support to children's early literacy skills as they expertly bring stories to life. Children join in eagerly with familiar rhyming phrases, make thoughtful comments about the different characters and predict what might happen next.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are caring and attentive to children's individual needs. Children settle quickly and become happy and secure in the familiar routines of the day. They learn to adopt healthy lifestyles and they enjoy helping themselves to nutritious snacks and being physically active. Staff provide a secure environment and encourage children to keep themselves safe during play. For example, they show younger children how to be careful not to hurt others when they are steering scooters outdoors. Staff form good partnerships with local schools to support children to move on to their future education with confidence and self-assurance. For example, they share information about children's achievements with school staff and organise visits to help children to become familiar with school life.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the skills they need for future learning and moving on to school. They develop good independence skills and manage their own self-care needs with confidence. Older children learn to identify the letters of the alphabet and are getting to know the sounds they represent in words. Younger children show interest in books and eagerly turn pages to discover their favourite pictures. Children enjoy counting during group activities and develop good mathematical skills and understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117211
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1126696
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	49
Number of children on roll	93
Name of registered person	Playbox Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP907717
Date of previous inspection	15 December 2015
Telephone number	01752 709286

Playbox Pre-School registered in 1992 and is run by a voluntary committee. The pre-school receives funding for nursery education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school opens every weekday from 8.30am to 4pm, during term time only. There are 18 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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