

Toybox Playgroup

Wakehams Green Community Centre, Heathfield, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex,
RH10 3NU



Inspection date	24 May 2018
Previous inspection date	13 July 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have an exceptional knowledge of children's individual needs and what they need to learn next. All children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, have settled well and thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting.
- Children develop very good communication skills. They talk confidently, ask each other questions and discuss what they are doing during play. Staff support children's language skills well, for example, they describe what is happening while younger children play.
- The manager and staff have strong relationships with parents. They ensure that parents are fully involved in their children's learning and that their suggestions are valued.
- Observation and assessment of children's learning are good. Staff understand how children learn and provide interesting activities. All children make good progress.
- The manager and staff evaluate their practice and provision effectively. For example, they review the environment to ensure children are accessing all areas. Some staff have attended observation and assessment training which has had a positive impact on the quality of their observations on children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make the most out of opportunities to fully extend or challenge children's mathematical skills.
- There are not many opportunities for children who prefer to learn outside to make marks or explore construction resources in the outdoor environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more opportunities for children to explore and learn about mathematics in their play
- improve further the opportunities for early writing and construction for those children who prefer to learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff's interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views and feedback on the setting and staff.
- The inspector viewed a range of written documentation, including children's records, policies and procedures and staff's training certificates.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children's safety or well-being. They have a secure understanding of the importance of recording concerns and how to report them. The manager monitors staff effectively. She observes their practice regularly and works with them, sharing ideas. This helps further improve staff's practice and develop their confidence. The manager has a good understanding of children's development. She discusses their progress with staff during supervisions and they meet as a team each week to discuss next steps and future planning. All children make good progress, taking into account their starting points.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy learning and confidently explore the activities on offer to them. Staff deploy themselves effectively within the room and there are activities for children to take part in and several play spaces for them to explore. During the inspection, children enjoyed creating pictures and models from a variety of resources. They used chalks, glue and tissue paper to make paper plate faces. Staff asked children to tell them about their faces and what they were going to add next. This encouraged them to use their imaginations, explore their feelings and use a range of descriptive vocabulary. Younger children enjoyed exploring sensory activities, such as coloured rice. Staff allowed children time to explore and told them the shapes they were making. For example, 'that is a circle'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are exceptionally happy and have strong bonds with staff. Parents comment that the setting is like an extended family because staff genuinely care, not only about the children, but the whole family. Staff know children extremely well and fully understand their individual needs. Children's behaviour is impressive. They show constant care and consideration towards their friends. For example, they support them during play and understand that they have to take turns. Staff are excellent role models. They constantly encourage children's independence and encourage them to make their own decisions during all activities. Children develop a strong understanding of the importance of healthy eating and how to keep themselves safe. For example, they confidently discuss different types of fruit and use knives to prepare them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have SEN and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress in relation to their starting points. They are prepared well for moving on in their education. Children develop a good understanding of the world in which they live. For example, they learn about where they come from, the monarchy and different languages that people speak.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113799
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1126635
Type of provision	Full-time 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	33
Name of registered person	Toybox Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522437
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2015
Telephone number	07922 561262

Toybox Playgroup registered in 1992 and operates from Wakehams Green Community Centre in Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex. The setting is open during term time only from 9.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday. A team of five staff works with the children; all hold recognised childcare qualifications. The manager is qualified to level 6. The setting is in receipt of free early years education funding for children aged two, three and four years old.

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