

Tolleshunt Knights Cooperative Playgroup

Tolleshunt Knights Play Group, Top Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Maldon, Essex, CM9
8EU



Inspection date

13 June 2018

Previous inspection date

3 February 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 arrive happy and know the routine when they arrive. They are keen to select activities and resources to support their interests. Children demonstrate that they are emotionally secure. Parents comment positively about staff and say that their children have a good relationship with their key person.
- Children develop good social skills. Staff provide group activities where children learn to share and take turns. Children are keen to share their learning experiences with their friends and demonstrate good behaviour.
- Staff show good teaching practice. They support children well in their learning and development, helping them to make good progress. Staff observe and assess children's learning and plan for what children need to learn next.
- Self-evaluation is effective. The manager and staff gather the views of parents and talk to children about changes they would like to make. Children help to design and make their own 'water wall' in the garden, to support their learning outdoors.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use the information gathered from parents when children first start about their children's prior achievements, to plan for their learning from the outset.
- Although the manager monitors staff's practice, she does not critically evaluate their teaching skills enough, to help raise their skills to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use information from all parents about their children's prior achievement to help plan more precisely for children's learning from the outset
- strengthen the monitoring of staff's practice to evaluate critically teaching skills further and to help develop their practice to an outstanding level.

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, children and the provider during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager and deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Hayley Ruane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a good knowledge of the signs of potential abuse and where to report concerns regarding children's safety. They find out about children's dietary and medical needs from parents when children first start. This helps them to promote children's good health. Staff attend specialised training to help them to meet children's needs, particularly those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff help children to learn about how they can keep themselves safe. They arrange for fire fighters to talk to the children about the importance of walking when they practise a fire drill to evacuate the building. Staff work well with parents and share information about children's learning. They provide opportunities for parents to help their children's literacy skills at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager monitors the progress made by groups of children. This helps her to support staff in helping children to develop their mathematical skills. Staff work well as a team and know the children well. They differentiate their teaching styles depending on the age and stage of development of the children. Staff help children to develop their communication and language skills. They model using sign language when they sing songs with children. Staff ask children a good range of questions, helping them to develop their thinking skills. They encourage children to recognise the sounds represented by letters of the alphabet. Children develop good literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff give children plenty of praise and encouragement. Children know the rules and boundaries, and this helps them to know what is expected of them. For example, they have a separate area indoors where they need to walk. Staff remind children to use good 'listening ears' when they give children instructions. Children learn about healthy eating. Staff provide opportunities for children to help grow strawberries and herbs in the newly refurbished garden. Children enjoy watering the plants and learning how they grow. Staff offer children a good range of healthy snacks. They encourage children to be independent. Children spread jam and butter on bread and wash their plate and cup after snack time. Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise. They kick and throw balls, helping them to develop their balance and coordination.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. They are motivated to try new activities. Children demonstrate good imaginations. They pretend to talk to their new school teacher on a play phone. Children dress up in school uniforms and put rucksacks on their back. Older children are very confident. They enjoy standing up in front of a group of children and telling others about their experiences, such as going on holiday and sleeping in their own bed at home. Children learn key skills in readiness for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	650159
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1091230
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	36
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Tolleshunt Knights Cooperative Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908669
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2015
Telephone number	01621 816771

Tolleshunt Knights Cooperative Playgroup registered in 1971. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 1.25pm on Monday and Thursday, and from 9am until 4pm on Tuesday and Wednesday. On a Friday, the session is from 9am until 1pm. The playgroup opens occasionally during the school holidays. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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