

St John's Playgroup

St. Johns Church Hall, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 3DT



Inspection date	26 June 2018
Previous inspection date	4 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 new manager is committed to providing high-quality care and education for children. She is ambitious and has lots of ideas of how she can target the areas for development. With her staff team, they welcome advice from the local authority advisory team. They have a very positive attitude to driving continuous improvement.
- Staff complete regular observations and assessments, and develop accurate plans that focus on children's next steps in learning and evolving interests. They work well as a team and discuss children's achievements throughout the day. This helps to provide children with continuous support.
- Managers provide swift intervention when children need extra help. They offer effective one-to-one support and work closely with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists.
- There are caring relationships between the children and the staff in the playgroup and this helps to support children's emotional well-being. Children are happy, feel safe and behave well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff undertake professional development opportunities, systems for monitoring performance to support their ongoing development are still evolving.
- The manager has not yet developed a highly successful system to track children's attainment, to analyse the progress being made by specific groups of children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- sharpen the focus on monitoring staff performance to raise the quality of their practice and further support professional development
- extend the systems for reviewing children's achievement to include the progress made by specific groups of children and use this information to inform further planning.

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 deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are aware of their role and responsibility in keeping children safe. They have completed relevant training and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The premises are safe and staff are well deployed. The manager and management committee follow a robust recruitment procedure and ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Regular meetings and information sharing enable parents and staff to discuss children's care, learning and development. Staff seek the views and opinions of parents to help to improve the service. Parents speak positively about the care and learning opportunities staff provide and say their children look forward to coming to playgroup.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff ensure children are engaged and enjoy learning. This contributes to the good progress children make. Staff promote children's language development well. Children eagerly join in story time and share their thoughts about characters and events. Staff introduce children to new words, such as 'stretchy', 'prickly' and 'shimmer', and provide simple explanations of their meaning. This helps children to widen their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of words. Children are supported to extend their ideas as staff ensure that requested equipment is available to them, for example, when they want to 'have a go' at making a zip wire. Staff use many opportunities to incorporate mathematical language and understanding. For example, children count and compare the size of small-world dinosaurs and liken the largest one to a 'daddy one'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff know children well. They provide children with plentiful activities to help them to make independent choices in their play. All children behave very well. Children show high levels of confidence. They arrive eagerly and immediately find others with whom to play. They learn to share, take turns and develop positive social skills, such as using good manners. Children have many opportunities to learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles. They benefit from healthy snacks, fresh air and exercise. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe. On hot days they are taught the importance of drinking water, applying sun cream and wearing hats.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children's early literacy and communication skills are developing well. They enjoy making marks, listen attentively to stories and enthusiastically join in with songs and rhymes. Children develop their independence as they carry out simple tasks for themselves. They work together and show good cooperation skills. Children manage their personal care routines and know how to tidy up after themselves. They gain the skills needed for the next stage in their learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	400351
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	1128175
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	St John's Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP518699
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2015
Telephone number	07931987665

St John's Playgroup registered in 1992. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two are unqualified. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. The playgroup is open on Monday to Thursday from 9.15am till 3pm, and on Friday from 9am till 12.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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