

Sharpness Playgroup

c/o Sharpness Primary School, Newtown, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9NU



Inspection date

10 July 2018

Previous inspection date

27 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 are happy, confident and comfortable in their surroundings. They have close attachments with their key person and other staff. Staff support children's emotional well-being effectively.
- Children make good progress relative to their starting points. Staff provide a stimulating, interesting and exciting range of activities that motivates children to learn and explore.
- The committee and staff are motivated and eager to maintain the high quality of care. Regular team meetings and discussion enable them to evaluate practice and put plans in place to maintain the good quality of teaching and improve outcomes for children.
- Staff have developed good partnerships with parents, carers and other professionals. They encourage parents to share in children's achievements and progress, such as using 'wow' vouchers. Links with other professionals are strong and ensure consistency for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, some staff tend to do things for children that they could easily do for themselves, such as at mealtimes, reducing opportunities to develop children's independence even further.
- Although staff give children warnings when a change of activity is about to happen, they do not consistently make it clear for all children, to help them understand how much time they have left to complete their activities.

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 children to complete achievable tasks for themselves, to develop their skills and confidence in their own abilities
- review ways to help all children understand about the passage of time and when a change of activity is going to happen.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the staff interacting with the children, inside and outside the setting.
- The inspector had a meeting with the chair and play leader, and offered a joint observation opportunity.
- The inspector spoke to children, staff and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed the provider's improvement plan.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, safeguarding procedures and other written policies and procedures.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff and management are clear about the procedures to follow in the event of having any concerns about the children in their care. They are clear about the indicators that may alert them to any child protection concerns. Staff monitor children's non-attendance closely. Safeguarding is effective. Staff work well as a team and the new committee members provide good support for them. They monitor staff performance effectively. Staff take part in training courses to help maintain the good quality of teaching. They report that recent training on the characteristics of learning has helped them to improve how they plan activities around children's interests and how they learn best. Parents speak highly of the staff, the care they provide, and how well their children progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carry out detailed observations and assessments, and track children's progress effectively to extend children's learning even further. Staff provide good support for those children who require extra support or extension. They support children's communication and language skills very well, for example, by speaking clearly and slowly to children as they interact. Staff recognise that they need to allow children the time to think and answer questions, such as when they ask them 'How many do we need?', 'what do you need to do to make sure the water is collected?' and 'what can you use to collect the water?' enabling children to solve problems and share their own ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well behaved and show care and concern for each other as they interact. For example, when children have a drink and notice that another child's bottle is empty, they mention to a member of staff that it needs filling up again. Children learn about healthy lifestyles, such as wearing hats in the sunshine, the need to drink plenty of water and washing their hands before eating. Children enjoy exploring the world around them. They develop their physical skills well when they play outside, such as when they use tools to dig and mix soil, grass and stones to make 'cement' so they can fill holes in the grass. Children interact well with each other, as they organise their own games, such as playing families and making meals in the mud kitchen.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff prepare children well for their next stages in their learning and eventual move to school. Children are confident and eager to learn. They enjoy exploring how water flows as they use guttering to collect water in different containers and see what happens when they move the guttering to different places. Children show pride in their achievements; they delight in showing their friends and staff what they have drawn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101524
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1088853
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	24
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Sharpness Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519914
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2015
Telephone number	07759308427

Sharpness Playgroup registered in 1992. It operates from a building in the grounds of the Sharpness Primary School, Newtown near Berkeley. The playgroup opens during term times only, Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm and on Fridays from 9am to midday. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. Three members of staff work directly with the children and all hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3.

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