

St Gabriel's Playgroup

St Gabriel's Hall, East Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9QH



Inspection date	27 September 2018
Previous inspection date	1 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Staff are good role models and show children how to be kind and care for others. Children follow their good example and, for example, find toys for a friend. They help each other put away artwork in drawers.
- Children are secure, confident and happy. They settle quickly in the friendly and welcoming environment.
- Staff competently observe and assess children. They provide challenging activities that reflect children's interests and needs. Staff help all children make good progress from their starting points in learning.
- The manager and staff team effectively monitor all children's progress. They identify and successfully narrow any emerging gaps in learning. For example, the manager recently addressed a slight weakness in opportunities to develop children's mathematical skills further. Children are now engaging in more activities that build on their already good awareness of numbers and shape.
- The manager encourages the continuous professional development of staff. For example, they attend further training that helps increase their knowledge and skills. Recent training is enabling staff to more competently increase children's strong speaking skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently make the most of all opportunities to encourage children's independence even further, in particular at snack times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of everyday routines to help increase children's already strong levels of independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from written and verbal feedback, and the group's parent questionnaires.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, and spoke to staff and children at various times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures that all staff keep their understanding of safeguarding procedures up to date. Staff have a good awareness of the correct steps to follow if they have a child protection concern. The manager maintains a safe and secure environment so that children can play safely. The strong partnership with parents and carers helps contribute to children's welfare and learning. Staff keep parents well informed about children's progress. They work closely with other early years providers who share the care of individual children. The manager and staff team continue to reflect on practice and make changes that benefit children. For example, with children's help they painted pictures on sheets to hang up and make the area more inviting. Staff are now working on a new initiative to provide further opportunities for children to explore simple science.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well and carefully plan for their key children. Children enjoy many interesting and stimulating resources and activities. Staff skilfully engage children in conversation and, for instance, ask questions that encourage them to share their thoughts and experiences. They invite children to recall and retell a story they have previously heard. Children are very confident speakers. Staff encourage counting in everyday play. Staff give children plenty of individual attention. For example, they come alongside children to support their learning when playing in a home corner. Staff extend children's strong imaginary skills when they pretend to cook meals. Children develop good early writing skills and enjoy making marks, for example, when making butterflies.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff actively build on children's understanding of how to stay safe. For example, they remind children of safety rules, such as no running indoors. Children pretend to be fire officers when playing outdoors and learn how to stay safe. Staff teach them how to use equipment safely, for instance, when hammering nails into pieces of butternut squash. Staff encourage children to have healthy lifestyles. For example, they teach children good personal hygiene routines and the importance of healthy eating. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise in the outdoor area. They have good coordination and control of their bodies.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for a successful move on to school. They have good social skills and communicate effectively with adults. Children seek help when needed but have the confidence to try things for themselves first. They make independent choices from low-level storage units. Children enjoy a wide variety of learning experiences. For instance, they have fun creating patterns in dough using various objects and tools. Children help do simple jobs, such as putting rubbish in a bin for a member of staff. They learn how to express their feelings and manage conflicts well. For example, they tell a friend when they do not like being chased.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113717
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10066599
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	St Gabriel's Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522443
Date of previous inspection	1 December 2015
Telephone number	07512650699

St Gabriel's Playgroup registered in 1992. It operates from a church hall in Billingshurst, West Sussex. The group opens from 8.30am to 4.15pm, Monday to Friday, during school term times. The group is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. They employ five staff. Of these, three staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. There is one member of staff with a childcare qualification at level 2.

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