

PATA @ Elmbridge

Under Fives

Elmbridge Children's Centre, Elmbridge Infant School, Windfall Way,
GLOUCESTER GL2 0LN



Inspection date	26 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	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

- The playgroup is bright, welcoming and well-organised. Staff provide a rich and varied environment that is very conducive to learning. Children feel secure and settled and become active and inquisitive learners.
- The staff team has a strong and caring ethos that puts the child at the centre of everything that they do. Children are very well safeguarded by the dedicated manager and staff, who implement robust procedures.
- Staff place a focus on children developing their communication and social skills, which they do well. Children are well behaved and make good progress towards the early learning goals.
- The provider continually supports the manager to improve the provision. There is an ongoing commitment to staff attending relevant training to improve outcomes for children. For example, staff attended communication and language training to support children with speech delay.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff are not as effective as they could be in supporting children to develop their own play and ideas. Staff sometimes ask too many questions and give their own views without giving children time to respond and express their thoughts.
- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to encourage older children to link letter shapes and sounds, to further support their early literacy skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the children's abilities to be creative with their own ideas and recognise when children's play should continue uninterrupted
- increase opportunities for children to develop their awareness of letter shapes and sounds as they play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children in play activities indoors and outdoors and looked at the resources available.
- The inspector had discussions with the provider and manager about leadership and management, safeguarding, and how they evaluate practice.
- The inspector had discussions with parents and took account of their views, along with written testimonials.
- The inspector looked at children's information, attendance records and development records, and spoke with staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are aware of their role and responsibilities should they have a concern about a child. Regular checks of children's assessments mean that any potential learning needs are recognised and met quickly. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to support children's individual learning needs, and to ensure continuity of care for children. Parents share observations of their children at home from the start, and say they value the support and learning ideas given to them. For example, children can take a teddy bear home to take on outings and special family occasions. Parents provide photographs and written notes of the adventures and children verbally share this experience with their friends during circle time. This helps them feel involved in their children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is strong overall. Staff focus on children's communication and language skills well. For example, they speak clearly in short sentences and sing songs and rhymes throughout routines and activities. Staff encourage children's early mathematical skills particularly well, in a variety of ways. For instance, they encourage children to match and draw 2D shapes and introduce 3D shapes with cubes of cheese at snack time. Staff provide children with plenty of opportunities to strengthen their physical skills through varied experiences. They offer inspiring outdoor learning experiences. For example, children thoroughly enjoy sailing the wooden ship and making tea in the mud kitchen. Children gain a good understanding of the world.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are cared for in a happy environment that is planned well to meet their differing needs. For example, younger children eagerly build in the construction area, and older children move easily between play areas together. Staff teach children to respect others and help develop their understanding of other cultures. Staff manage children's behaviour in effective ways and are very good role models. Children show a real understanding of how to manage risk, such as when they are climbing or building with large bricks. They learn the importance of healthy lifestyles as they wash their hands before meals.

Outcomes for children are good

All children gain the key skills needed in readiness for school. For example, they listen well, are kind and respectful, and share their toys without prompts. Children increase their mathematical skills, using early sums, matching shapes and recognising numerals on the bicycles they ride. They learn from number lines and posters displayed around the setting. Children manage their own care routines, such as hand washing and dressing independently.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY537762
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10077222
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	42
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	PATA (UK)
Registered person unique reference number	RP537141
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01452 386174

PATA @ Elmbridge Under Fives re-registered in 2016 and operates from purpose-built accommodation in the grounds of Elmbridge Infant School. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 2.45pm, during school terms only. A team of seven childcare staff are employed all holding relevant childcare qualifications, one early years teacher status, one level 5, four level 3 and one level 2.

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