

Inspection date	3 October 2018
Previous inspection date	22 September 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

- Since the last inspection, the manager and staff team continue to work very well together. They make effective changes to their planning and assessment of children's learning. This ensures that children's interests lead the planning of activities and that assessments of their learning are accurate.
- The staff team is committed to ensuring children are safe. Staff supervise children well during their play. Staff are deployed effectively in the inside and outside play areas. This results in the children benefitting from being able to move freely between these areas to play.
- Parents are happy with their children's experiences at the playgroup. They comment on how supportive and helpful the staff are and about the progress their children are making in relation to their confidence and independence.
- Children rapidly develop confidence and a sense of belonging at the playgroup. They enjoy joining activities that are supervised by staff and they are supported to learn about the routines and the expectations for behaviour. Staff have time to talk to children, play with them and read stories. This is beneficial to children's emotional well-being.
- The staff team is reflective in their work. They continually review what they do and how they use the available space to ensure it meets children's changing interests.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff have opportunities for professional development, the manager has not yet implemented plans to ensure this is highly focused on their individual needs for further development.
- Occasionally, staff do not encourage children to think deeply about what they are doing and try to solve problems they encounter for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement plans to extend the monitoring of staff practice to ensure their individual professional development is highly focused
- focus more precisely on extending older and more able children's deeper thinking through further discussions during activities.

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 completed a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the playgroup manager and with two members of staff. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager has developed robust recruitment procedures that include checking the suitability of new and existing staff. The staff are encouraged to keep their knowledge up to date through training in core aspects, such as child protection and first aid. Staff recognise the benefits of training and qualifications in relation to their increased confidence and understanding of how children learn. Staff demonstrate a secure awareness of how to protect children and promote their welfare. They understand the importance of following the procedures outlined in the safeguarding policy for recording and reporting any concerns that arise.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children thoroughly enjoy taking part in the good range of activities the staff provides for them. Lively conversations take place during activities where children explore lentils. They use tools, such as tongs and scoops, discussing numbers and quantities with staff as they play. Children are curious about how colours change when they are mixed together. They use descriptive language during their conversations with staff as they mix colours of paint and play dough. Staff are skilled in their teaching. They successfully engage children in relaxed conversations as they play alongside each other. Children are able to extend their own interests and learning. For example, they enjoy using the play kitchen to prepare and 'cook' play dough food. Effective observation and assessment enables staff to plan suitably challenging activities for children that build on what they already know and that children are eager to take part in.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are able to separate from their parents and enjoy their time at the playgroup because staff are very supportive. They get to know children well and ensure they spend time with children, developing positive relationships with them. Children are familiar with the daily routines. For example, they eagerly help tidy toys away and know to wipe their hands before eating. Behaviour is very good. Staff are good role models and children respond to their gentle and clear reminders to be kind and to think of others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are learning skills that support their future learning. This contributes to them making good progress in their learning from their individual starting points. They make choices about what they do. Friendships are developing where children play well together, help their friends and show respect and care for one another.

Setting details

Unique reference number	219912
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10065128
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Walker, Colleen Ann
Registered person unique reference number	RP512652
Date of previous inspection	22 September 2015
Telephone number	01933 410700

Happytots registered in 1992 and is managed privately. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. All hold early years qualifications between level 2 and 4. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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