

Sunnyside Community Playgroup

Church Hall, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2PP



Inspection date

4 October 2018

Previous inspection date

29 January 2016

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

- Children develop a strong understanding of the world around them at the playgroup. Staff provide a range of enriching activities outdoors, such as going on a walk to the allotment and collecting autumn leaves and conkers.
- Children settle quickly into the playgroup. They are extremely familiar with the routines of the session. They form strong relationships with the staff and know who to turn to if they need support.
- Children concentrate well. The range of resources supports children to focus at the activities they choose. Staff interact positively with children, which supports all of them to make good levels of progress from their starting points.
- Staff keep parents well informed about the procedures to follow regarding illnesses in the playgroup. They remind parents about the guidelines for children returning after they have been unwell and are vigilant in keeping toys and resources clean to support children's well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not consistently offered enough training opportunities to develop their professional knowledge further so that they can support children to achieve even more in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance existing training opportunities for staff to develop their professional knowledge even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used by the playgroup.
- The inspector and the manager observed a planned activity and considered the impact of the teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including staff files, risk assessments and children's records.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Staff show a good understanding of how to keep children in their care safe. They know the processes to follow to report any concerns about children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. Staff make sure that children are kept safe from potential risks while they are outside. For instance, they make sure children are holding hands with an adult while they are on their walk. The manager holds regular supervision meetings with staff to support their practice further. Staff keep parents informed about the progress their children make. Parents check the noticeboard as they arrive at the start of the session and talk to their children about the activities for the day. Staff form positive partnerships with other professionals, such as school teachers, to support children's continuity of care when they move on from the playgroup. The supportive committee work hard to raise additional funds to enhance children's learning experiences further, such as by funding a music teacher who visits weekly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff ask children a broad range of questions to support them to extend their ideas further and widen their vocabulary. They skilfully use every opportunity for children to learn. For example, staff wait with a small group and sing songs, while other children get ready to go outside. Children explore how they can use their voices to change the songs as they sing, such as when they sing quickly and then sing really slowly. Staff encourage them to explore using all of their senses. For instance, children listen out for the trains and point them out excitedly as they walk outside. Staff use the assessments of children's progress effectively to plan appropriate next steps for individual children in their learning. Staff talk to children about the different ways of life in other countries and cultures, such as when reading stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have strong levels of independence. For instance, they spread their own butter onto their toast at snack time. They serve themselves fruit and staff support them to pour water into their cups carefully. Children tidy their plates and cups away when they are finished. Children are very enthusiastic and staff praise them for their achievements. They demonstrate a strong sense of achievement, for instance, they tell staff, 'I did it all by myself'. Children behave well at the playgroup. Staff support children to make friends and remind them kindly to share and take turns.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Children explore the sounds that instruments make. They develop their imagination as they play, such as when they pretend to cook in the role-play kitchen. They join pieces together on jigsaws, which helps them to develop their hand-to-eye coordination. Children strengthen their small muscles, such as when they use scissors and cutters with the play foam. Children enjoy listening to stories and learn to turn the pages in books carefully.

Setting details

Unique reference number	129394
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063660
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years 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	18
Name of registered person	Sunnyside Community Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519010
Date of previous inspection	29 January 2016
Telephone number	07935492504

Sunnyside Community Playgroup registered in 2000. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The playgroup opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term time only. Sessions are from 8.55am until midday. There is an optional lunch club each day from midday until 12.45pm. On a Friday, the optional lunch club closes at 12.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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