

The Crickets Playgroup

St Johns Pavillion, Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8HG



Inspection date	15 November 2018
Previous inspection date	1 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
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 requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager has failed to inform Ofsted of changes to the committee. This is a breach of legal requirements.
- The management team does not reflect on the quality of the provision effectively enough to help ensure that all areas for improvement are identified and addressed so that children benefit.
- The management team does not consistently supervise staff effectively or provide sufficient support and training to improve their practice, raise the quality of teaching to a higher level and continue to improve outcomes for children.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to enable children to choose resources and develop their play independently.

It has the following strengths

- Staff interact well with children and build on their skills and knowledge. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children have good manners and show care for their friends. They play well together and join in activities with others.
- Staff are caring, supportive and friendly. They create a welcoming environment where children settle quickly and feel secure. Children form strong emotional bonds with adults.
- Staff work closely with parents to meet children's needs. They keep them well informed about children's progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
gain a secure knowledge of significant events and changes that must be notified to Ofsted.	30/11/2018

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

- implement rigorous and effective systems of self-evaluation to help identify breaches of requirements and priority areas for improvement, and to raise standards in the quality of the provision for all children
- establish a more systematic and effective system for the supervision of staff, which provides appropriate coaching and training, to continually improve their knowledge, understanding and practice
- provide further opportunities to enable children to make choices and extend their play experiences independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the management team and spoke to staff during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The manager has failed to inform Ofsted of changes to the committee members to enable any required checks to be completed. This has minimal impact on the care of children as the new committee members do not work with children. The manager is on the committee and has completed relevant suitability checks. The management team does some reflection of the provision and evaluation of activities. However, this is not thorough enough to help ensure any weaknesses are identified and addressed in a timely manner. The management team have also not focused precisely enough on what staff need to do to improve their knowledge and teaching skills further. Staff have a sound understanding of safeguarding procedures and know what to do if they have a child protection concern. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well and provide activities that reflect their interests and needs. They plan a broad range of stimulating and challenging activities that children enjoy. Staff extend children's speaking skills competently. For example, they ask questions that encourage children to share their thoughts and ideas. They support and build on children's imaginary skills, for instance, in the role-play area. Children pretend to make cakes and talk to staff about what ingredients they need. Staff build on children's awareness of numbers effectively by, for example, introducing counting during group times. They model play well and show children how to use resources safely, such as sticky tape and scissors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff actively encourage children's good health. For example, they provide daily activities outdoors that build on children's strong physical skills. Staff have made good use of additional funding to enhance resources in the outdoor area. Children show good coordination when using outdoor equipment and playing active games with staff. Staff provide children with healthy snacks and access to drinking water. Children manage their own personal care needs well. For example, they pour out drinks and cut up fruit at snack time. Staff carry out daily safety checks that enable children to play and move around safely. Children show a good understanding of safety, for instance, when they use oven gloves to take play food out of a toy oven. Children behave well and happily share resources with others, such as a piece of a toy cake.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop well in the skills they need for a successful move on to school. They are confident and independent. Children readily seek adults' help when needed. They are good communicators and eagerly engage in conversation with adults and friends. Children develop good early reading skills. For example, they find their own name cards when they arrive and when having snacks. Children listen attentively to adults during group activities. They are busy and occupied well in play with a purpose. Children concentrate well and enjoy learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113761
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10066600
Type of provision	Sessional 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	23
Name of registered person	The Crickets Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP905600
Date of previous inspection	1 July 2015
Telephone number	01444247903

The Crickets Playgroup registered in 1992. It operates from a sports pavilion in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The group opens from 9.15am to 1.15pm, 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. The group employs five staff; of whom, four have a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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