

Hamdon Playgroup

Under the United Reformed Church, North Street, Stoke-Sub-Hamdon,
Somerset TA14 6QQ



Inspection date	10 May 2019
Previous inspection date	24 September 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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

This provision is good

- Staff take time to get to know the children and plan for their learning effectively. They obtain good information from parents when children start and build on what children can do. They accurately assess children's progress from their individual starting points and keep parents well informed.
- Children form strong attachments with kind and caring staff, who support children's emotional well-being successfully. Staff use their training and research well to support children to manage their emotions and label their feelings, for example by using a reflection table.
- Managers evaluate the provision well and have made good progress since the last inspection. For example, staff receive effective support in their role through regular supervision meetings where they can explore any concerns arising. Regular meetings with other early years providers and professionals help the group develop their practice effectively.
- Staff do not support children as well as possible as they move between activities to continue their learning. For example, children become disinterested as they wait to wash their hands and then wait for all to sit before eating snack.
- Staff do not use all avenues to engage less reluctant parents to share information about children's learning at home, to help influence future planning.
- On occasion, staff do not encourage children to be imaginative in their creations.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review arrangements as children move between activities to help continue their learning and support their understanding of behavioural expectations
- use all opportunities to encourage less reluctant parents to share information about their children's learning at home, to help staff plan more effectively
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their creativity and experiment with their ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions and the quality of teaching while children played inside and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed how staff are supported in their role.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and parents at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's assessment records, staff suitability checks, the playgroup's self-evaluation and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff organise outings well and use their risk assessments successfully to keep children safe from harm. Managers and staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to report any concerns about a child to appropriate agencies. There are robust arrangements to ensure staff are suitable for their role and remain so. Managers monitor children's progress successfully. Any gaps in children's learning are quickly identified and plans are put in place to provide additional support.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff encourage children to develop good communication and language skills. For example, there are plenty of opportunities for children to talk. Staff provide good narrative to children's actions, build children's vocabulary and question them effectively. Children participate eagerly in stories. They confidently ask questions, predict what may happen and repeat familiar rhyming phrases. Staff are mindful of younger children's engagement and support them well, for example, by guiding them to activities that they know interest them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are respectful of children's play. For example, they ask permission before engaging in their play. Staff regularly praise children's achievements, helping them build high levels of self-esteem. Children build strong friendships, for example, by offering resources to engage others in their imaginative play. They play well together. Children demonstrate a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, younger children understand that a wet floor can be slippery and know not to play in the water tray when the floor safety sign is put up. Staff work closely with parents to meet children's care needs successfully.

Outcomes for children are good

All children develop the skills they require for their future learning. They are motivated to learn, for example, as they keenly explore new resources and engage in imaginative play. Children show good-small muscle skills as they fix construction pieces together, showing increasing control. Children show curiosity and are keen to know how things work. For example, they chase the bubbles emitted from the bubble machine and find different ways to pop them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143133
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	10081116
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Hamdon Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP907227
Date of previous inspection	24 September 2018
Telephone number	01935826832

Hamdon Playgroup opened in 1974 and is run by a voluntary committee. It operates from a community building in Stoke-Sub-Hamdon, Somerset. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2. The playgroup is open from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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