

Springfield Playgroup

Upminster Baptist Church, Springfield Gardens, Upminster, Essex RM14 3EH



Inspection date	20 May 2019
Previous inspection date	17 March 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Self-evaluation is highly effective. There is a shared vision and commitment between management, staff and parents to continually drive improvement. Parents are extremely involved in supporting the work of staff and speak highly of the excellent service they deliver.
- Placing children at the centre of practice is integral to everything staff do and a real strength of the setting. For instance, children organise and construct their learning journals with key persons to share in their progress together. This helps children feel highly involved in their own learning.
- Staff ensure a rich and varied curriculum thoroughly supports children's learning. Staff use engaging scientific experiments, such as a colour-changing activity, to spark children's curiosity and extend their thinking skills successfully.
- Children laugh in the garden as they dig in the sandpit, hide figures of knights and dragons in plants and investigate living creatures with magnifying glasses. Children are highly motivated and curious to learn. Staff delight in fostering this inquisitive nature to build on children's experiences even further.
- Staff encourage children to consider potential risks in their environment. Children enjoy the responsibility of ticking tasks off on their clipboard, as they check doors are locked and all areas appear safe with staff. This helps children develop a deep understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe.
- All children make excellent progress towards their early learning goals. Children who start at the setting at higher levels than typical for their age, continue to progress exceptionally well. Staff challenge children and provide experiences to enhance their understanding and social skills to help prepare them for their next stage of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to use highly effective systems to reflect on practice and identify areas for improvement, to further enhance children's learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with children, parents, staff and the manager at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities and play indoors and outdoors and looked at a range of resources available.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of a planned group activity.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including policies, training certificates, children's learning records and planning.

Inspector

Leanne Stranger

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of the signs of potential abuse. They are clear about their responsibility to follow policies and procedures if they are concerned about the welfare of a child. Extremely robust systems for supervision and professional development help to ensure that areas for improvement are identified and swiftly addressed. As a result, gaps in learning are rapidly closing. For example, staff implement strategies from training and workshops around mathematical development to raise the standard to exceptionally high levels from children's starting points. Excellent partnership working with a local special educational needs and/or disabilities provision, helps staff to provide effective programmes for children who require additional support.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff meticulously use ongoing observations to build a clear picture of children's interests and plan thoroughly engaging experiences. Staff go above and beyond to provide outstanding opportunities that ignite children's desire to play and help build positive relationships. For instance, on occasions, staff dedicate three full weeks to creating a large role-play town. This helps enhance children's communication and imaginative skills, as they explore an art gallery, veterinary practice, building site and hospital. Staff involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning and development, such as inviting them to stay-and-play sessions, to help build a continuity of care between home and pre-school. Staff implement their excellent knowledge of child development to expertly challenge children during small focus-group sessions. For example, children identify letters on pebbles and find items on a busy picture to match that letter. This contributes to improving early reading skills exceptionally well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff create a wonderfully engaging environment for children indoors and outdoors. Children thrive as they enjoy many opportunities to develop their physical skills successfully, for example improving hand-eye coordination as they practise hitting a ball with a bat. Children excitedly watch the newly hatched chicks in an incubator. They listen intently when staff explain why sleep is important for the chicks and ourselves. This helps children develop an understanding about rest, growth and their own bodies. Children form secure attachments with key persons and display positive behaviour as they mirror the gentleness of all staff. They develop positive ideas about cooperation and working together. This is evident when children independently remind one another to take turns and share new climbing equipment together.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children have an excellent attitude and enthusiasm for learning. For example, they use a clock in the home corner to develop a secure understanding of time and daily routines. Children make shopping lists to practise their early writing skills and understand mark making in everyday situations. Children make confident choices about their play. This helps strengthen their self-confidence and interactions with peers and staff. Children are extremely well prepared for future learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	118567
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	10063459
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	3 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Upminster Baptist Church Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP908689
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2016
Telephone number	01708 223653

Springfield Playgroup is a church committee-run sessional group. It opened in 1968 and is situated in Upminster, in the London Borough of Havering. The setting operates Monday to Friday from 9am to midday, during term time only. It employs eight staff, most of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds a relevant level 6 qualification.

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