

Inspection of Thurnby & Bushby Playgroup

St Lukes School, Main Street, Bushby, Leicester, Leics LE7 9PN

Inspection date: 7 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

All children are happy, confident and familiar with the routines of the session. This helps children to settle quickly and maximises the time they have to play and learn. Staff have high expectations for all children's learning. Children concentrate well and enjoy learning about creatures that live in the sea. They acquire a good understanding of nature and develop their mathematical knowledge. For example, children draw pictures of cockle shells; they count the number of lines on the shell and explain that the lines tell them how old the cockles are. Staff know how to keep children safe. They risk assess the premises to identify hazards and minimise any risks to children.

Children are able to manage their own feelings and know what behaviour is expected of them. Their thoughts and opinions are listened to by staff. Children contribute to the rules of the setting, such as sharing and being kind to others. Staff are skilled in encouraging children to be respectful and to have positive attitudes towards one another. Children respond well to praise given by staff. They excitedly choose a coloured gem as a reward for their good efforts.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leaders and managers work hard to plan a curriculum that is exciting and stimulating for children based on their current interests. Children enjoy taking part in craft activities. This provides the opportunity for them to strengthen their hands and fingers in readiness for writing. For example, children hold pens in a pincer grip to draw around their hands and to make zigzag patterns.
- The managers and staff are caring and passionate about working with children. They know how children learn and understand how they are progressing in their development. Staff quickly identify when children need more support in their learning and seek appropriate support from other agencies.
- Staff work with children in small groups to support them with their social and communication skills. They ask children to say in turn which colour balloon they would like. Children are engrossed in this activity and say 'bigger, bigger, bigger', as the balloon is pumped up. They squeal with joy when the balloon deflates and shoots in different directions.
- Staff offer children healthy foods at snack time, including apples, carrots and cheese. They provide children with opportunities to be physically active and develop their large-muscle skills. Children use the indoor area to roll an extra-large dice. They skilfully stride across the room as they count out a number of steps, which total the same as the number on the dice. However, staff do not make the best use of the outdoor area to allow children to test their physical skills to an even higher level.
- Staff are knowledgeable about children and their families. They use this

information to broaden children's experiences. For example, they invite parents to come in and talk to the children about different festivals they celebrate, such as Navaratri. Children enjoy dressing up in traditional outfits and dancing with Dandiya sticks. This supports children's learning about different festivals that people in their community celebrate, and why.

- Children learn about the values needed to be a British citizen, such as understanding the fairness of democracy. They take part in an election, where children listen to each other's manifestos and use ballot cards to vote for a 'Prime Minister'.
- Parents speak extremely positively about the nursery and comment about how staff keep them up to date with the progress their children are making. Staff give parents 'speech bubbles' for them to share what children have said at home, including children's comments on what they have learned. For example, parents refer to their children talking about sea anemones.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have addressed weaknesses in safeguarding well since their last inspection. All staff now have robust knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe from harm. They know how to respond to any signs of abuse and what to do should there be an allegation made against a member of staff. Staff know to keep records of accidents and injuries that children have at the setting or at home. The manager ensures staff are suitable to work with children through a robust recruitment procedure.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make the best use of the outdoor area so children have the opportunity to challenge and develop their physical skills even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226497
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10118516
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 to 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Thurnby & Bushby Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522318
Telephone number	07817 695 643
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2019

Information about this early years setting

Thurnby & Bushby Playgroup has been operating since 1986. It is a charitable organisation that is run by a committee and operates from a classroom in the grounds of St Luke's School in Bushby, Leicester. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 5, and four hold qualifications at level 3. The playgroup is open from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until midday. Additional afternoon sessions are offered in the spring and summer terms. The playgroup provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Caroline Clarke

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a tour of the premises with the manager. They talked about how the provider organises the nursery and the play and learning experiences they provide for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection. She held a meeting with the manager and reviewed a sample of documents, including evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection 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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