

Inspection of Hazel Grove Methodist Playgroup

Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 4JQ

Inspection date:

6 February 2020

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and safe in this friendly and supportive playgroup. They settle quickly and show interest in the activities on offer. Children are comfortable with familiar routines. They enjoy close relationships with caring staff. Their behaviour is good, and they show confidence as they play and explore.

Staff focus on promoting children's social skills. They take account of children's interests when planning activities and offer a curriculum based around weekly themes. For instance, during a theme about Australia, staff teach children to identify Australian animals and they help children to make their own didgeridoo. This helps to broaden children's knowledge of the wider world.

Staff introduce activities which help children to make choices in their play. Children enjoy engaging in sensory experiences. They have fun cleaning the toy animals in the water tray and exploring with sand and paint. This helps to support their imagination and concentration skills.

Children are not provided with daily opportunities for outdoor play, as required. Staff have few opportunities to improve their professional development. Also, systems for monitoring the quality of education are not strong enough to help promote and maintain high-quality provision.

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

- Overall, the quality of education is inconsistent. Staff are qualified, but they are not given enough ongoing training and development opportunities. This does not help them to build on their knowledge and teaching of the curriculum. At times, staff are not confident about what they intend children to learn. They overlook opportunities to challenge children further to help them achieve as much as they can.
- Some positive steps have been taken to address recommendations from the last inspection. Staff have worked hard to improve children's understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. However, systems to monitor the quality of practice remain variable. Leaders use staff observations as a way of monitoring performance, but they do not carry these out regularly enough to help staff build on their skills.
- Children engage in some active play to promote their physical skills. For example, they use the climbing frame and ride around on wheeled toys at the end of the session. However, leaders do not fully consider how to overcome the challenge of not having an outside play area. Occasional outdoor activities are organised, but these are not planned and taken daily, which does not meet requirements.

- Staff interact with children as they play alongside them. They provide opportunities for children to talk, sing songs and listen to stories. This helps children to build their vocabulary and language skills.
- Large-group activities, such as registration, enable children to count and talk about the weather. Children take turns to share their feelings and play a new musical instrument. However, the activity takes too long and some young children struggle to maintain their attention.
- Leaders support the positive well-being of the team. They continue to work with the local authority adviser to review and develop practice. Staff are beginning to gain an understanding of changes, particularly in relation to Ofsted's education inspection framework.
- Staff assess the risks associated with children sharing facilities with other users of the building. They put measures in place to keep children safe and make sure children are closely supervised when using the bathroom. Staff encourage children to follow hygiene routines and they offer healthy snacks for children to eat. This contributes to promoting children's health and well-being.
- Parents share positive feedback about the playgroup. They say children talk fondly about the staff at home. Parents report that communication from staff is good. They receive regular updates about children's ongoing progress.
- Staff establish effective links with key staff from other settings that children attend. They share valuable information about children's needs. This helps them to provide consistent support, particularly for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are well deployed to supervise children and keep them safe. The designated lead for safeguarding takes effective measures to make sure all staff understand their responsibilities to protect children from harm. A safeguarding assessment was conducted, which helped to highlight and address gaps in staff knowledge and paperwork. Staff regularly refresh their safeguarding training and they are kept up to date with any new information. They are clear about what to do should they have a concern about children's welfare. Effective procedures are in place to manage any allegations made against a member of staff.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
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improve the planning of outdoor activities to enable children to enjoy daily experiences outside in the fresh air.	21/02/2020
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- increase opportunities for staff to continually build on their knowledge of the areas of learning and how children learn to strengthen the teaching of the curriculum
- monitor the quality of education more closely to help children achieve well and gain the most from their learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315285
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	10069794
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	26
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	Clayton, Patricia Ann
Registered person unique reference number	RP514219
Telephone number	0161 483 0150
Date of previous inspection	15 July 2014

Information about this early years setting

Hazel Grove Methodist Playgroup registered in 2005. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, with two at level 2 and four at level 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.15pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jan Linsdell

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the provider to understand how the playgroup and the curriculum are organised.
- A joint observation was carried out by the inspector and the provider.
- Discussions were held with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Meetings were held with the provider, the deputy manager and the local authority adviser.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents, including evidence of staff suitability and training.

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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