

Inspection of Pound Hill Toybox Playgroup

Wakehams Green Community Centre, Wakehams Green Drive, Crawley, Sussex
RH10 3NU

Inspection date: 30 June 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children thoroughly enjoy the sessions at pre-school. They arrive in the morning with optimism, enthusiasm and anticipation for what they plan to do. Children form positive relationships with the staff and make friends easily. Every child is valued, and staff work hard to make sure each child achieves well. Children who need extra support make good progress and any gaps in their learning quickly close.

Children develop good levels of independence. They learn to recognise their name as they self-register on arrival. They understand that their opinions are important to staff and confidently share their ideas. Children begin to manage their feelings well. Staff use creative ways to help children understand their different emotions. For example, they use different colours to describe how they are feeling, based on the popular story of 'The Colour Monster'. Staff respond to this well and help children learn how to manage their behaviour and actions.

Children learn how to play safely. They recognise potential risks and take care of themselves well. Children behave well. They follow simple rules and learn how to respect and value the needs of others. Children's family traditions are respected. Every child's home life is celebrated. Children learn the importance of valuing the similarities and differences between themselves.

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

- The curriculum is planned well. It offers a broad range of rich, exciting activities both inside and outside. Children consistently develop new skills and build on their existing knowledge. Staff plan activities they know will interest children. For example, one child's excitement about the holiday he had been on prompted staff to create a well-resourced, inviting role play airport and beach area for the children. This enabled children to play imaginatively and recall favourite experiences.
- Teaching is consistently good. Staff are highly qualified and develop their skills through extensive ongoing training. They tune in to what children are doing and saying and support learning well. For example, when children showed interest in looking at the numbers on a toy clock, staff turned this into a game and helped children to recognise and learn to write different numerals.
- The pre-school manager is a strong leader. She supports her staff well and actively encourages them to continue their professional development. For example, two staff members are studying for a foundation degree. The manager works highly effectively with parents and any other agencies involved in children's care and learning. This ensures any important information is always shared and understood.
- Children develop positive attitudes towards learning as staff make it enjoyable.

They play alongside children and ask relevant questions to develop language and extend children's understanding. For example, when children created a tea party outside, a staff member supported learning well. She offered children plenty of resources to support their play. Children pretended to make tea, so she provided them with a choice of scented and flavoured tea bags to explore.

- Children's language skills are supported well. Staff work closely with children who need extra help and involve other professional agencies when needed. The manager uses additional funding effectively. There are always extra adults available, so children have plenty of individual attention and can develop their speaking and listening skills.
- Staff work closely with parents to ensure children's learning is consistently supported at home. They offer additional resources, such as books and props to encourage storytelling and the promotion of language. Parents praise the staff team. They say how happy their children are and how well prepared they are for starting school.
- Staff know the individual qualities and personalities of the children well. They plan for these effectively and offer relevant challenge to make sure every child makes progress from their starting points. Staff offer good support for children with special educational needs. Very occasionally, however, some activities involving large groups of children are not effective in keeping every child engaged. Sometimes, a few children lose focus and this becomes slightly distracting for other children and has an impact on their learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children's safety is given high priority. Staff have a good understanding of their duties to protect children. They are appropriately trained in all aspects of safeguarding and know what to do if they have any concerns. Staff keep detailed records so that information is stored securely and can be shared with relevant agencies if needed. Staff are vigilant in helping parents understand how to keep children safe at home. For example, they share guidance about car seat safety and they remind parents about the importance of using social media responsibly to keep children safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make sure every child's learning needs are consistently planned for during large-group activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY561760
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10194221
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Pound Hill Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP906601
Telephone number	07765245933
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Pound Hill Toybox Playgroup registered under its current management in 2018. It is linked to another pre-school in the area and shares the same management committee. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, term time only, from 8.30am to 2.30pm. It operates from a community hall in the Pound Hill area of Crawley, West Sussex. Funding is accepted for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs. A team of nine staff work with the children. Of these, five have recognised early years qualifications. The pre-school manager holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jo Caswell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector walked around the setting with the pre-school manager. They discussed how the curriculum is planned, both inside and outside.
- The pre-school manager observed a group activity with the inspector. Afterwards, they talked about what children learned from the activity.
- Children talked to the inspector about what they like doing at pre-school.
- Some parents spoke to the inspector and shared their views about how the pre-school prepares their children for starting school.

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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