

Inspection of Pagham Playgroup

Pagham Church Centre, Nyetimber Lane, Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex
PO21 3JT

Inspection date: 4 March 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's welfare is compromised and their safety is not assured, due to staff's lack of knowledge of child protection procedures. In addition, the provider is unable to demonstrate an understanding of how she ensures staff suitability to work with children. Children are happy and enjoy attending the playgroup. They make progress during their child-led play but the staff's knowledge of how to plan for children's learning is varied. As a result, not all children experience suitably challenging learning opportunities. Some staff know how to monitor children's learning and identify potential concerns with development, but other staff are less confident.

Children arrive with self-assurance and are excited to explore the play environment. For example, they enjoy looking at each other through magnifying glasses and become engrossed in small world play. Staff warmly welcome children and show they have positive and respectful relationships with them. Children behave well and demonstrate a good understanding of behavioural expectations. For example, they find their chairs and sit down quietly ready for registration time. Children confidently participate in conversations as they discuss their different costumes linked to their favourite stories.

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

- The provider lacks the knowledge of the necessary steps she must take to ensure the safe recruitment of her staff. Records to demonstrate staff suitability and paediatric first-aid certificates were not available to view on the day of the inspection. This is a breach of requirements and compromises children's safety and welfare.
- The provider and staff have a weak understanding and knowledge of local safeguarding partnership procedures. The provider does not ensure there is a culture of safeguarding at the playgroup. She has failed to ensure that staff have completed up-to-date training.
- The provider does not have effective arrangements in place to ensure staff receive individual supervision, support and coaching. This limits their professional development and hinders their ability to carry out their job roles and responsibilities.
- Children have a good understanding of how their behaviour affects others around them. For example, without prompting from staff, they apologise and wipe away each other's tears after a minor disagreement. Children demonstrate good levels of kindness and respect for one another.
- Children enjoy stories, rhymes and singing. They have conversations and discussions as a group. Staff model actions and use words clearly. This supports children's communication and language development.

- Parents are happy with the care and learning offered at the playgroup. However, not all parents are aware of who their child's key person is. They report their children talk fondly of the staff at home. Parents feel confident to talk to the provider, should they ever have a concern.
- Staff provide children with a variety of play activities. For example, they enjoy simple computer games and engage in fun role play. However, staff do not consistently support and extend children's learning experiences to help them make good progress.
- Children enjoy social mealtimes, where they sit together with staff and discuss healthy food choices. They demonstrate strong relationships and are very familiar with routines of the playgroup.
- Staff lack an understanding of the importance of linking with other providers who care for the children. Consequently, staff do not obtain information about what children have achieved at their other setting or what they are currently working towards. This hinders their developmental progress.
- The special educational needs coordinator understands her role in identifying when children may need additional help or support. She gives advice to parents where necessary.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider has a poor understanding of her safeguarding responsibilities as designated lead person at the playgroup. She does not ensure that staff know the correct procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against her or another member of staff. The staff team also have a limited understanding of how to report a concern about a child's welfare. Safeguarding policies are not up to date and do not reflect correct local authority reporting procedures. Although staff can identify some signs that indicate a child may be at risk of harm, they have a weak understanding of wider safeguarding concerns. For example, children at risk of female genital mutilation.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
ensure all staff, including the designated lead, are trained to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures and have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues	07/04/2022

ensure the safeguarding policy reflects guidance and procedures of the relevant local safeguarding partners	07/04/2022
ensure that records are maintained, easily accessible and available for inspection	07/04/2022
implement appropriate arrangements for the supervision of staff to ensure they are fully supported and knowledgeable in their roles	07/04/2022
implement effective procedures to ensure the suitability of staff working with children	07/04/2022
ensure staff are fully knowledgeable and skilled in implementing a challenging curriculum for all children to reach their full potential.	07/04/2022

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

- strengthen partnerships with parents to ensure they are fully aware of the role of their child's key person
- improve the liaison with other settings children attend and share relevant information on children's progress and future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113628
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10128660
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	36
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Powell, Jean
Registered person unique reference number	RP512050
Telephone number	07706 388 801
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

Pagham Playgroup opened in 1970. It is situated in Pagham Church Centre, in Pagham, West Sussex. The playgroup operates between 9am to 4pm Monday and Friday, and from 9am to midday Tuesday to Thursday, during school term time only. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The playgroup is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three, and four years. The playgroup employs five members of staff, all of whom have an appropriate early years qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Houston

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector joined the manager on a learning walk to discuss the setting's curriculum.
- The inspector and the manager took part in a joint observation of a member of staff.
- The inspector carried out a leadership and management discussion with the setting manager.
- The inspector looked at and discussed documentation related to safeguarding, accidents, registers and staff qualifications.
- The inspector observed children and staff during learning and play.
- The inspector spoke to parents and discussed 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022