

Inspection of Christ Church Playgroup

Christ Church Church Hall, Woodside Crescent, SIDCUP, Kent DA15 7JJ

Inspection date: 1 July 2022

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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are curious and arrive eager and ready to engage with their friends. They are happy, settle quickly and establish positive relationships with adults at the playgroup. Staff provide an ambitious curriculum, where children feel safe. This enables children to benefit from the range of activities, which captures their interests. For example, children work together to build tall towers in the outside area. Older children successfully work out that they can build the tower even taller if they have something safe to stand on. Children are developing their early mathematical skills. They show high levels of determination as they become absorbed in their play. Staff give children lots of positive praise for their efforts. Children enjoy exploring music and songs during group times and free play. They practise hearing loud and soft tones. Children develop their vocabulary when they learn words, such as 'xylophone'. All children, including those who receive additional funding, make good progress from their starting points.

Children are learning to manage their emotions. The manager understands the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on some children. As a result, she creates a cosy space for children to sit in. Children read books and use a range of resources to help them feel calm and relaxed. Children behave well.

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

- Staff observe children and work together to plan activities. They know what they want the children to learn next. However, occasionally, some activities do not have a clear focus on intended learning for children. For example, during a water play activity, staff do not make the most of what they want the children to learn next. Consequently, staff do not support some children to learn as much as possible during the activity.
- Staff provide a broad range of healthy drinks, fruit and vegetables during snack time. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy. Children confidently wash their hands. They know they need to do this before they eat. From a young age, children develop their independence skills as they pour from a jug and scrape their bowls. However, although water is available throughout the session, it is not easily accessible. This would help children understand the importance of keeping hydrated.
- The manager has high expectations for all children. This includes the support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The manager works closely with parents. They work in partnership with the local authority and the playgroup special educational needs coordinator to ensure that children receive swift interventions. For instance, staff introduce small-group time sessions to support children's speech and language development.
- Parents are very positive about the care their children receive. Children are

prepared well for school. For instance, children dress up in a school uniform to help develop their small-muscle skills. All children, including children with SEND and those who receive additional funding, are developing skills for future learning.

- The manager works closely with the staff to evaluate the setting. Staff comment that they feel well supported. For instance, they meet as a team outside of the setting to discuss further plans and provide support to the team. This provides a good support for staff well-being and develops opportunities to continually improve the provision.
- Support for children's physical development is strong. Young children develop strength and balance as they climb and stretch on beams, using the indoor equipment. Older children work together, they delight in building cars to pull each other around in during outdoor play. Children's behaviour is good.
- The curriculum promotes children's confidence and resilience. Staff are good role models and support children to manage their behaviour. Children are kind and considerate. For example, children find different 'feelings' cards, which they share with their friends. They compare their cards to posters and discuss how they feel. Children are developing a good understanding about their similarities and differences.
- Children's literacy is supported effectively. During messy play, older children delight in finding the first letter of their name. They are eager to tell adults it is the letter 's'. Young children are encouraged to make marks writing their name on their finished art work.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager follows safe recruitment procedures. She ensures all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe. They understand how to identify children who may be at risk of harm. Staff are knowledgeable about child protection and safeguarding issues, such as female genital mutilation and the 'Prevent' duty. They are confident to whistle-blow should they have concerns about another member of staff. Staff supervise children closely both inside and outside the building. They complete risk assessments to ensure there are no hazards in the environment before children attend.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to have a clearer focus on the intended learning for children, so that they are clear regarding their aim and objective during activities
- ensure fresh water is easily accessible.

Setting details

Unique reference number	115343
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	10061547
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	26
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Christ Church P.C.C.
Registered person unique reference number	RP903482
Telephone number	02083002913
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2016

Information about this early years setting

Christ Church Playgroup opened in 1977 and operates from a main hall, with access to a smaller room for small group activities, in Christ Church Church Hall. It is situated in Sidcup, Kent, in the London Borough of Bexley. The setting is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12 midday for 38 weeks of the year. The setting employs six members of staff. Most staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angela Colman

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 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 spoke to children and staff during the inspection.
- The manager spoke to the inspector about how she plans the curriculum and how she shares children's achievements with their parents.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact on children's learning. The manager and the inspector evaluated an activity together.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the setting's documents. This included evidence of training and suitability of staff.

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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