

Inspection of Bristol Childrens Playhouse

Berkeley Green Road, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6LU

Inspection date: 7 February 2023

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 greeted by a staff who offer a positive, warm welcome when they arrive. They become engrossed in activities that staff have specifically chosen to follow their interests and spark curiosity. This means children settle quickly, feel secure and are happy when entering the nursery.

Staff concentrate on developing positive, secure relationships with children and supporting their well-being. Parents have time to share important information with staff at the start and end of the day. This means staff are able to provide accurate levels of care and attention to children and provide a nurturing environment for each child. Children form strong relationships with staff and are comfortable approaching them. They show high levels of confidence.

Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They support children of all ages to take turns and share with their friends. For example, they offer children sand timers to take turns when more than one child wants to play with a toy. Older children do this independently and sit and wait patiently for their turn to play. They happily pass the toys to their friends when their time is up. Children's behaviour is consistently good.

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

- The management team and staff implement an ambitious curriculum with a clear and consistent approach. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive strong support. Staff gather information about children before they start and work closely with parents. This helps them to make precise assessments of children, to identify any gaps in their learning and development, and to provide well-planned interventions immediately.
- Parents speak highly of the manager and staff and feel well informed about their child's progress. Children benefit from this two-way communication, and parents comment that their children are 'thriving'. Children make good progress in all areas of the early years foundation stage, and any gaps in children's learning and development close quickly.
- The manager strives for the best possible outcomes for children. She spends funding for children from disadvantaged backgrounds on introducing new opportunities and widening their knowledge of the world around them. For example, children experience theatre productions and musical performances. All children learn about key festivals of the various cultures of the staff and children who attend the nursery. They benefit from this rich and varied environment, which promotes diversity and provides them with new encounters.
- Staff support the development of children's communication and language skills

well. For example, they use Makaton signing and visual cards with young children and those with speech and language delay to develop their understanding of new words and to inform them of what is happening next. Staff speak key words in both English and children's home language, which benefits children who speak English as an additional language. Children show good levels of communication and language skills.

- The manager has a continual drive for improvement and strives for all children to develop a love of learning, both indoors and outdoors. Children show high levels of independence and curiosity in their play. They spend considerable amounts of time engaged in activities. For example, younger children enjoy playing doctors and 'treating' the staff who they ask to be their patient. However, on occasion, staff do not organise larger group song times to follow the interests of younger children. As a result, some children lose their normally high levels of focus and do not fully benefit from the learning experience provided.
- The manager supports staff well. She holds regular meetings with the team so they can share updates on children's progress. She uses these to offer advice and training for staff so that they continually develop and improve their knowledge. The standard of teaching is continually improving and consistently good across the nursery.
- The manager and staff support children and families to develop healthy lifestyles. For example, they offer cooking classes for children and parents where they learn about making healthy meals that are cost effective and receive healthy lunch box lists. Children enjoy the healthy snacks offered and bring well-balanced lunch boxes.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child protection issue and who to contact if they have a concern about a child. The manager follows safer recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager takes this responsibility very seriously and tries to improve staff procedures. For example, they now quiz potential staff in interviews to identify additional safeguarding training required for inductions. Staff understand their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They are deployed effectively to supervise children and follow safe procedures when dealing with children's accidents and medication.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the organisation of song times for younger children to ensure they

remain interested and focused during the activity.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY308614
Local authority	Bristol City of
Inspection number	10263705
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Bristol Children's Playhouse Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525604
Telephone number	0117 9510037
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2017

Information about this early years setting

Bristol Children's Playhouse registered in 2005 and is located in Eastville, Bristol. The playhouse opens each weekday, during school term times, from 9am to 3pm. There are 13 members of staff working directly with children. Of these, three hold qualified teacher status, one member of staff holds a relevant level 5 qualification and seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playhouse provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca Martin

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 observed the staff's interactions with the children, indoors and outdoors, and the impact of these on children's learning.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Discussions were held with the manager and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She held a short meeting with the manager and business manager to discuss aspects of leadership and management.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.

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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