

Inspection of Tiny Tots Playgroup

Ogle Street, Hucknall, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG15 7FQ

Inspection date: 2 March 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 enjoy their time at this welcoming playgroup. On arrival, they access a wide range of activities that interest them and ignite their curiosity. Children develop their small-muscle skills as they explore play dough. They squash and roll the play dough into cake cases and place candles on top. Children are encouraged by staff to develop their mathematical skills as they think about their age and put the corresponding number of candles on top of the cakes they have made.

Children use their imaginations as they go on a bear hunt and pretend to look for bears. Staff take on board this interest and introduce the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Children explore the environment with magnifying glasses. They then use their listening skills as they gather for the story and join in with the familiar words and actions with enthusiasm.

Children are offered ample physical challenges outdoors. They take turns to scramble up steps and quickly slide down the slide. Children practise their coordination skills as they throw and kick balls to each other and balance carefully on small stilts. Children enjoy construction play. They carefully and skilfully build towers with wooden bricks, controlling their movements carefully, using their small-muscle skills to balance the bricks on top of each other, then proudly name their creations.

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

- The staff have created a curriculum that is relevant and ambitious for the children at the playgroup. They prioritise communication and language development in their programme of learning. Overall, the staff promote children's communication and language development well. Children enjoy actively participating in stories and engage the staff in meaningful conversations. However, there are times when interactions are not consistent. For example, during stories, children are asked direct questions and are not always given time to answer. This inhibits children's early communication and language development.
- Staff have embedded familiar routines that support children to develop good habits. For example, staff shake a tambourine before snack time and children know what this means. They respectfully form a line before going to wash their hands. This helps children to understand routines and good hygiene practices.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents comment that children make good progress at the playgroup. They say they are happy with the 'friendly and caring' approach that helps their children to settle quickly. Parents comment that information is shared regularly and children grow in confidence while they are at the playgroup.

- Staff encourage children to persevere during activities. Staff explain and demonstrate how children can lift their feet when using stilts to increase their skills. However, there is a little inconsistency. At times, some staff do not recognise children's interests, for example in how cars travel down the slide. Rather than developing this play, staff move the children away from the slide.
- The team of staff comment that they are very happy at the playgroup. They have respectful relationships with their colleagues. Staff say that they benefit by gaining essential knowledge through ample training opportunities. However, the way in which staff are monitored to support their professional development is still being developed.
- Children are respectful and behaviour is good throughout the playgroup. For example, children say 'excuse me' to get staff's attention during the session. Children are gently reminded to use their manners and in return, they are warmly praised and encouraged throughout. For example, as children achieve small milestones during their play, staff say, 'Good try, you can do it.'
- Staff want children to learn about their community and the people who live there. They arrange for children to visit nearby residential homes and shops. This helps children to understand about the different people in their community and builds their tolerance and respect for others.
- Children's independence is promoted throughout the session. For example, at snack times, staff select children to help to serve the nutritious snack. Children independently pour themselves drinks and are encouraged to dress themselves as they put on their coats to go outside.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a secure knowledge of how to identify signs and symptoms that suggest a child may be at risk of harm. They understand current procedures of how to report any concerns they may have about a child in their care. Staff understand the procedure for reporting any concerns and managing allegations about a colleague. Managers make sure that all staff have rigorous checks to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. Staff understand how to keep children safe at the playgroup. They carry out regular risk assessments to minimise hazards in the environment.

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 develop their interactions with children further to extend children's vocabulary and thinking skills
- help staff to better understand how to maximise learning based on the interests of children as they play

- refine the programme of support to staff to raise their understanding and confidence in delivering strong educational practices.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253047
Local authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
Inspection number	10276227
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare 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	23
Name of registered person	Ogle Street Under Five's Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522255
Telephone number	07963 962517
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

Tiny Tots Playgroup has been operating since 1977 and is situated in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup is open from Monday to Friday for 48 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 9am to 3pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Stephanie North

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the playgroup received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the deputy manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the playgroup.
- The deputy manager and the inspector had a learning walk together of all areas of the playgroup and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.

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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