

Inspection of Cricklade Preschool Playgroup

The Old Library, Bath Road, Cricklade SN6 6AT

Inspection date: 4 May 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 happy and relaxed in this welcoming playgroup. They develop strong bonds with the caring staff. Children who are new to the playgroup settle quickly, as they are supported well by caring key persons. Children behave well. They like to do things for themselves and demonstrate a can-do attitude. They self-register, recognising their names and photos, learn to dress themselves and hang their coat on their peg. Children use jugs skilfully as they pour water, and they serve their food at lunchtime.

Children demonstrate positive attitudes towards learning. They learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy playing with their friends. They have opportunities to be physically active. For example, outdoors, children use wheeled toys, jump and balance and pretend to repair the shed using their imaginations to become builders.

Staff build strong relationships with the local school and outside professionals to support children's learning. Older children who are preparing for their next stage of learning regularly share experiences at the local school, where they familiarise themselves with the building and teachers. This helps them to feel safe and secure and supports their eventual move on to school.

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

- The manager is very ambitious and passionate about the children she cares for. She has high expectations for the staff and the children. She is able to recognise the importance of ongoing training and the impact this has to promote positive outcomes for children. She is able to support and motivate staff in their own professional development. Staff are also supported through supervision, appraisals and the manager's positive engagement with her team. Their well-being is considered, and they feel valued. There is a good team spirit, and staff create a valued community setting.
- Children benefit from a broad and varied curriculum. Staff follow the children's interests when planning activities. They use initial assessments well to ensure they know what the children need to learn next. Children initiate their own learning, and staff ensure that a range of resources are easily accessible to enable children to make choices and select what they need.
- Parents speak extremely positively of the care and education their children receive. They comment that the staff are 'incredible'. They feel assured their children are well cared for, make good progress and have fun. Parents comment that the manager and her team are supportive of the whole family and take time to get to know them and the children. Parents discuss how easily their children settle. They comment that communication is excellent, and they fully appreciate

the support and reassurance they receive.

- Staff teach children how to keep themselves healthy and the importance of a good diet. For example, they explain about good dental hygiene, and children learn to brush their teeth through play. Staff teach children how plants grow and why it is important to look after the environment. For example, children learn to plant vegetables, cook healthy snacks, and explore how food is recycled.
- Overall, staff promote children's language and communication well. Staff introduce new words to widen children's vocabulary. They constantly speak to children, narrate what is going on, read stories and sing familiar songs. However, on occasion, staff do not fully enhance children's thinking and language skills or use the correct pronunciation for common words. For example, they do not always give them enough time to think when responding to questions.
- Children are excited to take part in outdoor play and really enjoy exploring this well-developed area. They use their imaginations to invent their own games and take part in a wide selection of physical play to support their development. However, children are not able to freely access this area, which sometimes restricts learning for those children who prefer to be outdoors.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children. They are confident to follow safeguarding procedures should they have concerns about a child or member of staff, including any concerns they may have about adults' inappropriate actions or the behaviour of a colleague. The management team implements robust recruitment procedures to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. All staff follow an induction process and receive mandatory training, such as safeguarding and paediatric first aid. Children learn to manage risk for themselves, such as road safety, when visiting the local school.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- encourage children to use the correct pronunciation of words and allow children more time to think and respond during interactions, to extend their communication skills
- develop the organisation of the day to provide more opportunities for children to freely access the outdoor area, especially for children who prefer to learn outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426355
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10285583
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	36
Name of registered person	Cricklade Preschool Playgroup
Registered person unique reference number	RP901939
Telephone number	01793 750 817
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2017

Information about this early years setting

Cricklade Preschool Playgroup registered in 2001. It is located in Cricklade, Wiltshire. The playgroup is open during term time only. Sessions are Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 4pm. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications, three at level 3 and one at level 6. The manager holds early years professional status. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracey Cook

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 leaders and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children, indoors and outdoors, to assess the impact this has on children's development.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents. This included evidence of suitability and training.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector completed a learning walk across all areas of the setting and outside play areas to understand how the provision is organised.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager to assess the standard of teaching.

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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