

Inspection of Ellistown Playgroup

Ellistown Cp School, Whitehill Road, Ellistown, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 1EN

Inspection date:

18 May 2023

Overall effectiveness

Good

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The management and staff team have worked hard since the previous inspection to elevate the standards of care and education for the children who attend. Children are warmly welcomed and excitedly enter the playgroup's safe and stimulating environment. They delve into a tray, with items frozen in ice. Staff help children to think about how to get the items out of the ice. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They give children instructions on how to use pipettes. Children listen to the instructions as they practise their small muscle skills, dipping pipettes into water and transferring the water into containers.

Children explore the exciting outdoor area. They construct structures with foam bricks, and are challenged to think about what they have made. Children use their imaginations as they create 'dinner' in the mud kitchen with play food, they exclaim, 'I'm making fruit, this pan is very heavy!' They sit together as they pretend to taste the food while staff talk to children about healthy foods as they enjoy their tea party.

Children are encouraged to gleefully sing songs into large tubes. They listen to how their voices change and use their imagination to make up their own songs, singing loudly and confidently. Children practise their large muscles and coordination as they skilfully 'whizz' up and down the playground on their balance bikes, expertly avoiding obstacles.

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

- The manager and her staff have worked successfully to address the previous weaknesses. They have worked together to create a program of learning that helps children prepare for the next stage in their education. Staff now benefit from regular supervisions to identify any weakness. They have accessed further targeted training to help them improve on their knowledge of child development and the curriculum. The manager ensures that she regularly monitors the quality of teaching. This has given the staff more confidence in their knowledge and interactions with children.
- Children are familiar with the routines of the day while they are at playgroup. This helps build a sense of belonging and security. However, at times, children's routine activities, such as story times are interrupted. For example, staff call children over to get stickers. As a result, children are not able to engage in their listening and concentration skills.
- Children's everyday language is developing well. They benefit from a wide range of stories and rhymes. Overall, staff communicate with children well. They ask questions to find out about each child's knowledge. However, staff do not always build on the children's language and introduce new words as they play.

- The manager and staff ensure that children learn about what makes them healthy. They talk to children about healthy foods as they eat. They provide children with healthy snacks and place an emphasis on the importance of oral health. For example, children are currently completing a toothbrushing challenge at home with their parents. Children engage in activities with toothbrushes, brushing out the 'germs' on a picture of teeth.
- Overall, children display positive behaviour at playgroup. They are polite and are gently reminded to use their manners. However, staff do not always support transitions from one activity to another. This sometimes results in disrupted behaviour.
- Parents speak highly of the 'supportive and friendly' playgroup. They receive regular updates on their children's development and are given activities to help children learn at home. Parents comment that the playgroup is 'welcoming' and provides lots of creative activities that their children enjoy.
- The manager and staff ensure that the children gain experiences both at playgroup and in the wider community. They benefit from visits to the local library van, where they can select books to enjoy at playgroup. Children welcome visitors to the setting that teach them about different cultures. This helps children's understanding about the world around them.
- Staff support children to understand early mathematical concepts. They achieve this by embedding maths into everyday play. For example, children dip paintbrushes into water and 'paint' on blackboards. Staff ask children to compare sizes and shapes of the flowers they have painted.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager ensures that all her staff receive regular training, to keep their knowledge of safeguarding up to date. Staff understand how to recognise and report concerns they may have about a child. They are confident in their knowledge about recognising abuse, such as female genital mutilation and neglect. The manager ensures that all staff received suitable checks to ensure that they are safe to work with children. Daily risk assessments ensure that children are kept safe at playgroup. Staff remind children for example, to stay sat at the table while they eat, and to take care when climbing up steps.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review routines of the day to allow children time to consolidate and deepen their knowledge through uninterrupted play
- support staff to build on children's language by introducing new vocabulary at a consistently high level

- support staff to plan more effectively for children's transitions from one activity to another, to enable children to remain focused and engaged.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY561145
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10244720
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Rennocks, Georgina
Registered person unique reference number	RP561144
Telephone number	07411215216
Date of previous inspection	19 May 2022

Information about this early years setting

Ellistown Playgroup registered in 2018 and is located in Ellistown, Leicestershire. It employs five members of staff, including the managers. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens on Monday and Friday, from 9am to midday, and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9am to 3pm, during term time.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Stephanie North

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at playgroup.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the 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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