

Noah's Ark Playgroup

St Lukes Primary School, St Crispins Drive, NORTHAMPTON, NN5 4BL



Inspection date

27 January 2015

Previous inspection date

20 November 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff provide all children with an exceptional range of activities that inspire their interests and curiosity. As a result, children are highly motivated and benefit significantly from the staff's outstanding teaching during their play.
- The partnerships between children's parents and the playgroup staff are excellent. This means that all children's needs are very well met and parents involvement in their child's learning is fully valued.
- The committee, management and staff team work extremely well together and have a commitment to continue to drive improvement. All staff demonstrate their desire to achieve excellence in all areas of their activity with the children.
- Children form very strong relationships with the staff who care for them each day. These attachments enable children to feel confident and a real sense of belonging and well-being in the playgroup.
- Staff deployment is highly efficient and every opportunity is used to enrich the environment and promote children's learning.
- The qualified and very experienced staff team support each child's learning because they know them well and provide a relaxed environment, with an abundance of fun activities, where all children are respected and valued.
- Children are self-sufficient in making choices about their activities. They help themselves to the excellent range of books and toys. They are very independent at snack time, efficiently washing their cups and plates when they have finished eating.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already effective ways of supporting children's awareness of communication systems, for example, by extending the use of signing during activities, stories and songs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outside in the garden.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, with two members of staff and looked at documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working with the children and the planning and assessment.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents and grandparents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The staff are highly effective in their teaching of the children and they use their knowledge of how they learn to plan an exceptional range of activities. Children's communication and language is very well supported. They have lots of opportunities to be confident to speak and share their ideas, both as a large group and individually. There is scope to strengthen children's awareness of different ways of communication through more signing during their activities and songs. Children's learning is consolidated and they make rapid progress because staff use precise assessments. Children become enthralled with familiar stories. Staff use props to enrich the children's experience and develop an awareness of numbers and different sizes. Children are developing effective skills for their future learning. They are able to play and explore, solve problems and ask questions of each other and the staff as they need to. This helps children to be very well prepared for starting school. Highly effective partnerships with parents and other professionals mean that children's individual needs are very well met.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children's individual care needs are managed very well. Thorough, ongoing discussion with children's parents about any specific needs means that staff fully understand and can respond to any changes. New children settle quickly because they are supported to explore at their own pace. The key person and buddy system is highly effective in ensuring that children feel secure because they get to know the staff well. Children clearly demonstrate that they feel confident. They enjoy selecting their own toys. They approach the staff to ask questions, ask for items they want or for a story. Children behave exceptionally well. They quickly become familiar with the consistent expectations for behaviour, learning to share and take turns. This helps children to build friendships. Staff have a very strong understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. They ensure they provide excellent supervision of the children during their play.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The staff team are highly experienced, qualified and very well established. They are supported most effectively by the committee. This means that the playgroup is extremely efficient in its organisation. This results in a shared vision of how to continue to drive improvement and respond to the needs of the children and their families. Robust arrangements for recruiting new staff, regular supervision and checking of staff's activity leads to a high level of consistency of practice. Staff are supported to attend training to keep their knowledge up to date. Effective delegation of roles means that all staff members' individual skills and interests are valued. Regular evaluation of all aspects of the provision ensures that children continually have access to exciting activities that offer suitable challenges.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY371691
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	858085
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	58
Name of provider	Noah's Ark Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2009
Telephone number	07749202184

Noah's Ark Playgroup opened in 1990, is managed by a committee and is situated on the site of St. Luke's Primary School. The playgroup employs nine members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Morning sessions are from 8.45am until 11.45am, a lunch club operates from 11.45am until 12.30pm and afternoon sessions are from 12.45pm until 3.45pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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