

St. Philip And St James Playgroup



St. Philip and St James Playgroup, Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3AR

Inspection date 28 April 2015
Previous inspection date 6 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Managers monitor the planning and delivery of the education programmes extremely effectively. They also ensure that staff use daily observations and more formal assessments to quickly identify and address children's individual needs. This results in high quality teaching and timely referral for additional support.
- Staff plan and provide children with a wonderful, rich and purposeful learning environment, which sparks their interest and enthusiasm for exploration.
- Training in safeguarding, and a comprehensive child protection policy, reinforces the staff's understanding and guides them as they keep children safe from risk of harm or neglect. Clear procedures for assessing and minimising any risks to children's safety also help staff create a safe and welcoming pre-school.
- Managers value and use their qualifications and training in education, safeguarding children and leadership. Students and their supervisors remark on their wisdom, generosity and capacity to nurture trainees.
- A sustained and carefully targeted programme of professional development ensures that staff offer high quality learning experiences for children and that these continue to improve.
- Staff prepare children extremely well emotionally for school and other new ventures as they nurture, act as role-models and praise children's efforts throughout each day.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the use of music to further promote children's skills, such as listening to each other, and to instructions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a wide range of activities across all areas of the pre-school and talked with staff and children about what they were doing.
- The inspector reviewed a selection of documents and procedures.
- The inspector sampled a range of children's records and systems for planning, evaluation, and exchanging information with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed written communication from parents.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the managers.

Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

Inspection findings

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

All staff, from the owners to the apprentice, reflect on their practice and evaluate the impact of their teaching on children's daily lives. Consequently, they know the children in their care exceptionally well, and plan daily opportunities for children to flourish and learn. Staff respond to children's interests quickly, giving them plenty of time to play, explore, experiment and create with an extensive range of resources. Children are keen and motivated. Their own imaginations enrich their experiences as they find new ways to do things, solve problems and reach a goal. The quality of teaching surrounding children is of a consistently high standard and is keenly focused on children's individual achievements. Children enjoy gathering together for a story and show delight as they join in with action songs. Staff note that large group work helps to prepare children for activities at school. Current consultations focus on how staff can use music to help children work as a larger team and to listen, as well as strengthening skills in rhythm and rhyme.

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

A resounding theme from parents is the rate at which children settle into the pre-school. Parents attribute this to the time, quality of care and rich experiences staff offer them and their children. Staff help children manage everyday risks as they use a tablecloth to make a pirate's den, or find space for a chair to add to a role-play combine harvester. Staff show children how to operate retractable tape measures as they compare the depth of water in different containers. Children clearly heed staff's previous safety warnings as they announce that 'it is safe to use because it is not electrical'. Children gain confidence and independence as staff constantly explain why their actions help them to stay safe and well. For example, during the inspection, as staff soothed a child who had fallen over, her friend quickly volunteered, 'I'll write it down for you. Where are you hurt?' Having recorded the accident, the friend cut a piece of masking tape to make a plaster.

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

The co-managers demonstrate a sustained ability to provide exemplary standards of welfare and education. The driving force behind everything staff do is their love for the children. A highly significant proportion of parents and carers were quick to recognise, appreciate and celebrate this during the inspection. The managers' paper work illustrates the exceptional level of organisation and professional training that underpins their knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Their high expectations gently filter throughout the daily practice of a committed, experienced and skilled team. As a result, staff meet all the statutory requirements and children make excellent levels of progress in their learning in an exciting and safe environment. High quality professional supervision and widespread training inspire all staff to continue to improve the pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346347
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	827574
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Hampshire Playgroup Ltd
Date of previous inspection	6 April 2011
Telephone number	07787 196981

St. Philip and St. James Playgroup registered in 2007. It operates from St. Philip and St. James Church in Fleet, Hampshire. The pre-school is open each weekday during school term times. It runs from 9.15am to 2.45pm except on Wednesdays when it closes at 12.45pm. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three, and four. There are eight members of staff, seven of whom hold relevant qualifications between level 3 and level 4.

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