

Coalway Early Years

Coalway Road, Coalway, Colefield, Gloucestershire, GL16 7HL



Inspection date	18 November 2015
Previous inspection date	18 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Safeguarding and welfare work is exemplary. The management team's insight into local services ensures that the right partnerships are in place to help children and their parents access the support they need.
- Children's self-esteem and confidence are embedded through praise and encouragement by friendly and caring staff, who are excellent role models.
- Practitioners provide a wide range of interesting learning experiences for children inside and out. Overall, children develop as active, capable learners supported by skilful practitioners.
- Knowledgeable staff collate all contributions from parents, external agencies and other providers to provide highly targeted activities which support children to make good progress, particularly those children with special educational needs.
- The management team review, adjust and develop practice continuously to meet the ever-changing needs of the children and families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Group activity times are not managed as well as they could be. Staff tend to focus their attention on confident children and do not always make the best use of opportunities to engage the quieter children.
- Staff do not always make the most of all opportunities to extend children's mathematical learning during spontaneous play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review group activities to make sure all children, in particular the quieter children, are fully engaged
- make the most of all opportunities to extend children's mathematical thinking and understanding.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children, and the impact these have on children's learning, in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records, staff planning, risk assessments, policies and recruitment procedures.
- The inspector held discussions with a committee member, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability to work with children, and their qualifications.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders fully understand their responsibilities for implementing the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding is effective. There are clear procedures in place and staff are aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe, for example, by knowing to 'whistle-blow' if they have any concerns. Staff have reviewed and evaluated how the most important areas of learning are promoted in each room. From this monitoring of children's progress, the play environments and presentation of resources have been strengthened. This is proving successful in prompting more learning and conversations amongst children and staff, to drive children's progress more rapidly. The management monitors staff practice to support each member to train further to improve their skills; for example, staff attended a language course to help children develop their communication skills, particularly those who may need extra help. Feedback from parents and children is valued. Parents report very positively about the caring and friendly service the group provides for families.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are keen to play and have fun at the group, where they receive strong support to make good progress in all areas of their learning and development. Children learn through their own choice of play and increasingly make their own decisions about their activities. For example, children eagerly explore water and capacity, while fishing for the letters in their names. Staff teach children successfully about the early stages of mathematics and reading. They ask children interesting questions and encourage them to recognise plate shapes, and count numbers of bricks as they make towers outside, for example.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide exceptional support for children's emotional and social well-being in preparation for moving on to school. Excellent support systems enable the key person to share detailed information with new settings, enabling accurate starting points to be identified. Children are confident and work extremely well together, taking turns and sharing. Children enthusiastically become actively involved in exciting and challenging physical activities and small-group sessions. Children choose for themselves from a range of selected healthy food options. They are helped to become extremely independent in readiness for school. They learn to spread their own crackers, take themselves to the toilet and wash their hands, for example.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress relative to their starting points and in all areas of their learning. Children learn to take responsibility for themselves and learn the skills needed in preparation for the next stage of their development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101701
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	824665
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Coalway Early Years Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2010
Telephone number	01594 839436

Coalway Early Years registered in 1997. It is based in the village of Coalway, near Coleford in Gloucestershire and operates from a building on the site of Coalway Community Infant School. It is a registered charity run by a management committee of parents. The playgroup opens five days a week during term time. Sessions run on Monday from 9am until 12pm and from Tuesday to Friday from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs 16 members of staff, of whom one holds a relevant early years qualification at level 5, two hold a qualification at level 4 and eight hold a qualification at level 3.

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