

The Playbox Nursery

St Johns Church Community Centre, York Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1ND



Inspection date	2 March 2016
Previous inspection date	8 December 2009

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager provides inspirational leadership to the staff team. Together they plan and deliver a very wide range of innovative and exciting learning opportunities that is worthy of dissemination to other early years professionals.
- The committee, manager and staff regard children's safety as their utmost priority. They have extremely high expectations for the welfare and learning needs of each child.
- Excellent monitoring takes place, providing clear information to support children's ongoing learning and development exceptionally well. The children make consistently high rates of progress, taking into account their age, ability and starting points. Where gaps in learning are identified, staff take rapid and targeted action to close these quickly.
- Children demonstrate exceptionally positive behaviour. The highly stimulating and welcoming environment, both indoors and out, motivates children to become keen learners who listen to and interact extremely closely with staff and each other. Their communication skills are excellent.
- All children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs, those for whom the setting receives additional funding and the most able, are making excellent progress and their outstanding achievements are celebrated.
- The exceptionally well qualified and experienced staff team offers a tremendously rich and varied range of multisensory activities. These learning opportunities enable the children to extend and build on skills that provide them with a firm understanding to continue exploring and learning.

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 excellent opportunities for children to become more familiar with expressive arts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector discussed a planned activity with the manager, reviewing staff interaction and practice.
- The inspector checked relevant documentation, including the suitability checks for all members of staff and committee. All relevant training certificates were viewed.
- The inspector reviewed reflective practice procedures used by the manager, staff and committee members.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of feedback from parents and other professionals.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team implements exceptionally good ways of monitoring children's welfare and learning. Relevant records are checked meticulously to identify areas of concern. The manager and staff use a wide range of highly effective communication methods to engage parents and other professionals. Therefore, consistent information is shared and all adults work together to promote children's personal development and progress. Exceptional attention is given to staff development. They are dedicated to their teaching role and relish continued training opportunities to enhance their already excellent knowledge and skills. Staff are highly effective in supporting children's learning. The views of children and their families are listened to and taken into serious consideration as the manager and staff evaluate the service they provide, in order to continually improve it.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their expert teaching knowledge and understanding of each child to plan very high quality, varied and imaginative experiences that fully engage them. Children enjoy an excellent range of choices and become successful and confident learners. Staff encourage children to share their imaginative ideas to tell a new story based on traditional, familiar characters. The children learn that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. They show excellent motivation as they volunteer to use different props. They confidently retell a story of three pigs that save a wolf from drowning at the local leisure centre. This activity enables the children to use their developing language and number skills, along with sharing previous experiences and mixing in a little imagination. The manager and staff identify that refining creative activities will strengthen and extend children's understanding of expressive art and design even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping children to form secure emotional attachments. They support children to feel safe and secure within the nursery, celebrating their achievements. Staff's guidance and interaction are excellent. Children develop extremely high levels of self-esteem which have a positive impact on their everyday well-being. They are independent and self-sufficient, developing an excellent understanding of how to manage risks and challenges relative to their age. The development of their physical skills is excellent, enabling them to manage their personal independence exceptionally well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children revel in opportunities to test out their growing knowledge and skills. For example, they access a wide range of fiction and information books which they enjoy sharing with each other and members of staff. They learn that print has meaning and combine letters and sounds together to begin making words. The children are making outstanding progress and securing an excellent level of skills for their future learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251691
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	854787
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	The Playbox Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 December 2009
Telephone number	07951062605

The Playbox Nursery opened in 1995 and is managed by members of a voluntary committee. The nursery employs four permanent members of childcare staff and an administration officer. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The manager holds Early Years Professional status. There are also two regular volunteers working in the setting. The pre-school opens four days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 9.15am to 11.45am and 12.30pm until 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They provide funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and support a number of disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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