

Scalford Playgroup

The Methodist Church Hall, New Street, Scalford, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire,
LE14 4DP



Inspection date	21 November 2016
Previous inspection date	10 December 2015

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The new manager and staff team show a strong commitment to providing good outcomes for children. They have worked hard and made many positive changes since the last inspection. They have developed a clear plan to continue to raise the quality of the setting further for children and their families.
- Staff provide a calm and nurturing environment. Children and parents are warmly welcomed. Children settle quickly and enjoy their time at the playgroup. They form strong relationships with both staff and other children, helping them feel emotionally secure.
- Staff make regular and precise observations and assessments of children's learning. They use these to plan a wide range of activities that matches children's individual next steps in learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- There are good links with the local school which the majority of children move on to. Children visit the school on a regular basis and participate in events and activities. Staff share information about children's individual needs. This helps children to make a positive progression to school and their next stage in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children have few opportunities to learn about people and communities beyond their immediate experience.
- Staff do not fully gather sufficiently detailed information from parents about children's abilities when they first start.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities that help children to learn more about people and communities beyond their own experiences
- gather more detailed information from parents about what children know and can do when they start at the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and conducted a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection, when appropriate.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's online learning journals, staff supervision records, the playgroup's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed some of their written comments.

Inspector

Claire Jenner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know the signs of abuse and the action they would need to take to protect children's welfare. Effective staff recruitment and induction procedures are in place. This helps to ensure that individuals are suitable to work with children. Risk assessments help to ensure that the environment is safe and secure, both indoors and outside. Staff remain vigilant at all times and supervise children well. The manager and staff meet regularly and effective supervision supports staff's continuing good practice. They share a strong commitment to develop professionally as individuals and as a team. Staff access training opportunities which have helped to develop their existing skills. For example, staff have completed specific training in supporting children's communication and language development. The manager completes detailed analysis of individual and groups of children's progress over time. This means that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and addressed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The qualified and experienced staff provide a good mix of child-initiated and adult-led learning opportunities, overall. They plan and tailor activities to children's different ages and stages of development. Children enjoy learning and are eager to join in. Staff speak clearly and model language well. They consistently encourage all children to talk and engage in conversations. Children develop good mathematical skills. They confidently count objects and recognise numerals. With staff they explore weight and measure. Children estimate which object will be the heaviest before placing them on the weighing scales to see if they are right. Children use tools, such as tongs, to pick up and sort objects into colour groups. Staff share ongoing information with parents about their children's care and learning. Parents speak highly of the caring staff and the quality of care and learning their children receive.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children make choices from the well-organised resources and are able to lead and plan their own play. Staff consistently acknowledge children's achievements. Children show good levels of self-esteem and are confident to express themselves. Staff support them to develop an awareness of safety. For example, how to use knives correctly to cut up vegetables in the role play area. Children's good health is effectively promoted. They enjoy frequent opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. Staff teach them to follow good hygiene practices and make healthy food choices. Children behave well. Staff are good role models. They help children to understand how to take turns and be kind to each other through clear expectations and boundaries.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They show a positive attitude towards learning and are developing high levels of confidence and independence. Children develop good literacy skills. They spontaneously write lists during role play and listen attentively to stories. Children are well prepared for their future learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226344
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1034909
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Scalford Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522138
Date of previous inspection	10 December 2015
Telephone number	07779 216704

Scalford Playgroup opened in 1970. The playgroup employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, the manager and one member of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one member of staff holds a level 2 qualification. The playgroup opens from Monday to Thursday, during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm.

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