

Nutley Preschool Playgroup

Nutley Preschool Playgroup War Memorial High, High Street, Nutley, Uckfield, East
Sussex, TN22 3NE



Inspection date	2 February 2017
Previous inspection date	28 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Children are very happy, settled and secure in the welcoming atmosphere. Staff know all the children well and interact with them with warmth, enthusiasm and care.
- The manager is reflective and ambitious. She has a clear commitment to the continuing development of the provision. She leads the staff in reviewing their practice accurately and effectively to help improve learning experiences for children.
- Children enjoy a wide range of creative and engaging activities. For example, they consider which animals are found in the Arctic and create their own Arctic scene.
- Children acquire good mathematical skills. For example, they identify numerals at snack time and they count out the corresponding pieces of fruit from the bowl.
- Staff fully value parents' involvement in their children's learning and development. Parents appreciate the successful care practices, such as the effective settling-in process and the quality, personalised care staff give their children.
- Children learn to be independent in managing their own needs. This helps prepare them for the next steps in their learning, including school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not recognise when to allow children more time to think for themselves and extend their thinking to a higher level.
- Staff do not consistently plan to make sure that children who only attend for the morning session access the outdoor environment on a daily basis.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more time to think for themselves to help challenge their thinking to a higher level
- build on the planning of activities and experiences to enable all children to access the outdoor environment on a daily basis.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children taking part in planned and freely chosen activities, and observed staff practice.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including the safeguarding policy and summaries of children's progress.

Inspector

Lucy Whitestone

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff understand their roles in keeping children safe and know the actions to take if there are concerns for children's welfare. Children are aware of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know they must hold a staff member's hand and look and listen for traffic when crossing the road. The manager tracks and monitors children's development and has an overview of each child's progress. This helps identify gaps in learning so that support can be provided. The manager effectively supports staff to update their skills and share good practice. For example, staff observe each other's teaching practice and provide feedback. They also attend regular staff meetings. The manager and staff communicate well with the local school, which helps children feel confident about the move to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are active learners who embrace the resources and activities on offer with enthusiasm. For example, they explore different textures, such as cotton wool and foil at the art table, and investigate capacity as they engage in water play. Staff build on children's interests to extend activities. For example, after listening to a story about an ogre, staff helped children build a cave and provided torches for further exploration. Staff support children's language skills and use a variety of methods, such as songs, visual cues and signs, to encourage children's speech and vocabulary.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's confidence well. Children are ready to take risks and meet the range of challenges staff provide. For example, they pour their own milk and cut their fruit at snack time, experiment with different ways of coming down the indoor slide and find their name at self-registration. Staff model consistent expectations of good behaviour and children know the golden rules, for example, 'we need gentle hands'. Children listen to staff well and learn to respect and value people's differences and similarities. For example, they explored that brown and white eggs are the same inside.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn valuable skills in readiness for school. For example, they practise their early writing and reading skills, identify the letters and sounds in their names and show good control as they perform letter formation. Children practise writing numbers, for example, they use a stick to write in the mud during a forest walk. Children share resources, take turns happily and tidy up after themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109472
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1068375
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	24
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Nutley Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904521
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2014
Telephone number	07535 655013

Nutley Preschool Playgroup registered in 1984. It operates in the Memorial Hall in Nutley, East Sussex. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday during school term times from 8.45am to 3pm. There are five staff employed, four of whom hold a recognised childcare qualification at level 3 and one holds an appropriate qualification at level 2.

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