

PlayPlus Kindergarten

Kingsway, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 2RQ



Inspection date

20 July 2017

Previous inspection date

2 June 2015

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

- Staff interact warmly with the children, who feel safe and secure in the setting. Key persons have a good knowledge of each child's level of development. They are responsive to children's needs and interests, and provide activities that challenge children well.
- Staff manage children's transition from one room to another well. Staff support children to settle and become familiar with their new environment. This builds children's confidence in managing change and prepares them well for their eventual move to school.
- The management team encourages staff well to evaluate and reflect on the quality of the provision. They use this information successfully to accurately identify areas for improvement that benefit the children further.
- Staff accurately observe and assess children's good progress. They plan a range of interesting opportunities, building on children's interests, needs and individual stages of development.
- Children thoroughly enjoy imaginary play experiences. For example, older children make soup in the mud kitchen, pretending that grass are vegetables, as they serve them to the staff. Children make good progress from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to explain to children why healthy food is important as part of their healthy lifestyles.
- Babies do not have many opportunities to access natural resources, to further enhance their sensory experiences in daily play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to help children understand why healthy food is good for them
- increase opportunities for babies to access more-natural resources, to explore freely, and further extend their sensory experiences in play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the provider, the manager, children, parents and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents available, including those relating to the premises, staff suitability and safeguarding.
- The inspector observed activities and daily routines, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know about the correct procedures to follow if they have any concerns about the welfare of a child. Management keeps staff up to date through regular training and discussions about safeguarding. The management team observe staff regularly and give them constructive feedback to improve teaching. Supportive coaching has enhanced the quality of observations and assessments that staff make. Staff routinely share good practice with colleagues to benefit children's learning successfully. Management monitors children's progress well, to ensure that all areas of learning receive equal focus and that gaps in children's development close rapidly. With active encouragement by staff, parents' involvement in their children's learning and development is good. Staff work closely and effectively with local schools to support children well when they move on to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a stimulating environment and children show high levels of curiosity. Staff promote children's communication and language skills well. Babies thoroughly enjoy playing musical instruments, mimic words and babble sounds as they join in with favourite songs. Staff use clear words and repeat familiar phrases to encourage the speech development of babies effectively. Older children play games and build on their listening skills well. Staff promote children to develop their mathematical skills. For instance, they ask children to count the number of bugs and mini-beasts they have found. Children name different insects and compare the number of legs each mini-beast has. Staff ask questions to encourage children's thinking skills successfully, such as, 'Which insects have wings?' Children confidently explain that butterflies and bees have wings and spiders do not.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children and babies develop close relationships with their key persons, and form secure attachments. Staff are responsive to children's individual needs. This supports their self-esteem and their emotional well-being effectively. Staff use consistent strategies to promote positive behaviour and children behave well. Babies and children show confidence, know their routines well and practise self-care tasks. For instance, babies walk to high chairs, use simple words or sign language to communicate with staff, when they are ready to eat snack. Older children, tidy toys away without prompting.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident and motivated learners who enjoy the learning experiences offered to them. For example, older children's reading is developing well and they make good attempts at sounding out letters in their names. Children identify colours, shapes and sizes, for example, during matching games. Children make good progress and develop the key skills needed ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	129383
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1089401
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	PlayPlus Kindergarten Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP523485
Date of previous inspection	2 June 2015
Telephone number	01442 879762

Playplus Kindergarten registered in 1989 and moved to the current premises in 1999. The kindergarten employs 23 members of staff. Of these, 21 work with children and hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The kindergarten opens Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The kindergarten provides funded early education for two, three and four-year-old children.

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