

Brent Playgroup

Brent Methodist Church, St. Vincents Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1XF



Inspection date	13 October 2017
Previous inspection date	12 December 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

- Staff get to know individual children well and establish positive relationships with them. Children develop a good sense of belonging and have positive well-being.
- Children have good opportunities to explore and investigate. For example, they participate in experiments, such as observing how ink absorbs in different materials.
- There are good opportunities for children to respect and understand other people's similarities and differences in the wider world. They explore the traditions of other countries, such as Henna patterns and the Hindu festival of light.
- Staff establish positive partnerships with parents and help keep them fully involved in their children's learning. For instance, they regularly share activity ideas.
- Children develop good early writing skills to support their future learning. For example, children confidently write their names and simple words.
- The manager regularly monitors the consistency of the quality of teaching that staff provide. For example, she observes staff in practice daily and offers them good feedback about their interactions with children to support their future practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of ways to extend children's opportunities to consistently choose their own play to develop their independence even more.
- The manager and staff miss opportunities to develop the monitoring systems to track the progress of different groups of children more effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's opportunities to choose their own play independently to help them gain more skills to support their future learning
- review and improve the monitoring and tracking of children from different groups, to highlight and address any gaps in their collective progress more quickly.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at written documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work effectively together to evaluate their practice. They have regular one-to-one meetings to discuss their performance and use the feedback to highlight any training needs. Staff evaluate the day's events and implement new activity ideas regularly. This helps them ensure that they keep children interested in their learning experiences. The manager and staff build on their knowledge and skills even further. For example, they attend regular training, such as learning how to support children to communicate using simple signing. Staff establish positive partnerships with other early years professionals. For instance, they share children's next steps in learning with the other settings they attend. This helps provide children with a good consistent approach to their shared care and learning. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and child protection procedures to follow to help protect children's safety and welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and staff closely monitor children's individual progress. This ensures that they can promptly highlight any gaps in their individual development. Staff provide children with good support to move on to the next stages of their learning quickly. Staff support children to prepare for their future move to school. For example, children learn more complex skills as they learn to open their lunchboxes and packaging independently. This helps children understand what will be expected of them. Staff build on children's interests well. For instance, children who are excited by a fairy story are encouraged to create 'magical kingdoms with fairies and gnomes' to bring their magical fantasy alive.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are polite and behave well. Children develop a good understanding of the importance of healthy eating. For example, they are keen to grow and harvest nutritious food items to try at snack time, such as tomatoes. Children have good opportunities to challenge their physical skills. For instance, they learn how to move their bodies in different ways as they make their own obstacles to negotiate using interesting items such as balancing beams. Children are confident to communicate their ideas and share them with their friends. For example, they enjoy being different characters in role-play activities.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress in relation to their individual starting points. Children gain good abilities to support their future learning. For example, they develop early reading skills as they recognise simple words and enjoy a vast range of reading materials. Children learn more complex mathematical skills, such as completing simple sums as they sing number songs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127042
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1070212
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Jean Chalkley
Registered person unique reference number	RP512981
Date of previous inspection	12 December 2014
Telephone number	01322 271738

Brent Playgroup registered in 2001. It is located in Dartford, Kent. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 9.15am until 12.15pm, term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The playgroup employs 11 members of staff, nine of whom hold a relevant early years qualification at level 2 or above.

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