

Northleach Playgroup

Northleach C of E Primary School, Mill End, Northleach, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL54 3HJ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

12 July 2018

18 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

- The playgroup is well led and managed. The new manager successfully fosters good team spirit and staff are well supported. The team embraces training opportunities and the manager has many good ideas of how they can enhance the provision.
- Children are happy and settled. Their behaviour is good and they enjoy the broad range of play opportunities. They all make good progress from their individual starting points.
- Staff have a good knowledge of where children are in their learning and plan enjoyable activities that take account of children's interests. They interact well with the children, fostering their self-esteem and motivating them to learn.
- Children develop their physical skills well. They show confidence in climbing and learn to throw, catch and kick a ball with control. They develop good coordination and make use of available resources to challenge themselves.
- Children are well prepared for school. They make independent choices in their play and learn to carry out simple tasks for themselves.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although parents received good information about their children's progress and have opportunities to share their views on the provision, staff have not fully explored ways to involve all parents actively in their children's learning and development.
- Staff do not make the very best use of what they know children need to learn next when supporting them during spontaneous play activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make even better use of spontaneous play activities to extend children's learning, to help them make more-rapid progress
- explore further ways to encourage parents to play a more active role in their children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff during the course of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to the manager about how she monitors the provision and sampled documentation.

Inspector

Linda Witts

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have completed safeguarding and first-aid training. They understand their role and responsibilities to keep children safe. Staff have good up-to-date knowledge of how to recognise when a child may be at risk of harm, including being exposed to radical views. They know what action to take in the event that they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff supervise children well, managing any safety risks as they arise. For example, staff stay close by as children experiment in ways to scale up the pirate ship and use planks to create a slide and anchors. The manager effectively monitors the provision. She has started to complete regular observations of practice and completes appraisals to identify areas for professional development. The manager and staff seek parents' and children's views to help evaluate the provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well. They make regular observations and assessments of children's progress and plan enjoyable activities. Staff regularly share information with other settings children attend. They use what they know about children's experiences elsewhere to complement those they have at playgroup. Staff show a genuine interest in what children have to say and aid their communication and language development effectively. For example they introduce new vocabulary and ask questions to promote children's thinking. Since the last inspection, the manager has increased the range of technological resources and children readily use these with confidence. The play environment is attractive, with colourful visual displays, including lots of examples of children's artwork. There are plenty of resources that children can easily reach and use to extend their play using their own ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff encourage children to learn about good hygiene and children are familiar with the playgroup routines. Children are keen to be 'special helpers' and help to prepare snacks. Mealtimes are sociable occasions. Children learn about healthy eating and good manners. Staff take carefully considered precautions to keep children safe, for example, when children have allergies or specific individual needs. Staff are good role models and they have a friendly rapport with parents and families. Everyone is made to feel very welcome in the setting.

Outcomes for children are good

Overall children achieve well and gain the skills they need to prepare them for the next stage in learning and school. Children of different ages relate well to one another. Older children are sensitive to the needs of younger children and actively involve them in their play. Children show great empathy when children are upset, for example, after an accident. Children relish outdoor play, using their imaginations as they make ice creams and repair items in the play house. They enjoy sand play and show their skills as they fish and name the colours of those they catch.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101531
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1070018
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Northleach Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519891
Date of previous inspection	18 December 2014
Telephone number	01451860019

Northleach Playgroup opened in 1992 and is situated in the rural town of Northleach, to the south-east of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. A voluntary committee made up of parents of children at the group and members of the local community manages the playgroup. The playgroup operates from a purpose-built building within the grounds of Northleach Church of England Primary School. The playgroup is open each weekday during term time between 9am and 3pm, except for Wednesday when the group is open from 9am to midday. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are five staff working directly with the children. All staff hold qualifications at level 2 or 3 and one has qualified teacher status.

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