

Christ Church Pre-School Playgroup

Church Hall, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2JH



Inspection date

9 February 2016

Previous inspection date

9 March 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

- Staff are knowledgeable and use their qualifications effectively to challenge and support children's learning. They complete detailed observations and assessments, gathering information from parents and other early years settings, to inform planning of activities. Children make good progress in their learning relative to their starting points.
- Children are happy and confident in their surroundings. They develop close attachments to all adults. Staff are good role models and children are well behaved.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills effectively. They interact with children well and give them time to answer questions and solve problems, for example.
- The manager and staff have good partnerships with parents, carers and other early years professionals. They share regular information to support children's learning and development. Parents speak highly about the high quality care and information staff provide.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to extend further children's mathematical skills, for example, teaching them about differences between weights of objects, because some resources are not always complete.
- On occasions, staff miss opportunities to include the quieter, less confident children in activities as they tend to focus their attention on the more vocal children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve opportunities for children to build on their mathematical understanding, particularly with regards to weight
- explore additional ways to ensure all children, in particular the quieter, less confident children, are fully engaged in activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children in the playrooms, including the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the play leader.
- The inspector had discussions with the play leader, staff and children.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records and the methods of observation and assessment, safeguarding procedures, suitability checks on staff, and the evaluation of practice.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The play leader and staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. They are clear about the procedures to follow in the event of having child protection concerns about children in their care. Staff use detailed observations, assessments and effective monitoring methods to ensure children progress well in their learning. Staff use additional funding for children, and work closely with other professionals, to help narrow the gaps in children's learning. Regular monitoring of staff performance helps to maintain the good quality of teaching. Evaluation of practice is accurate and includes the views of parents and staff; the process clearly targets areas for future development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan challenging activities for children, which meet children's individual needs and interests. Staff support children's social skills well. They encourage children to share and take turns as they interact with each other. Staff talk to children constantly and support their developing communication and language skills well. Children enjoy looking at books alone and with adults. They enjoy recalling and making up their own stories. This supports their creativity and imagination skills. Children enjoy exploring textures and developing their physical skills. For example, they paint, and make models. Staff support children as they use scissors, helping when required. Children mix flour and oats together and talk about the marks and shapes they are making on the tray, and how the mixture feels.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and demonstrate that they feel safe and secure on the premises. Staff provide a safe, welcoming environment. Children are motivated and eager to learn. They are able to make choices and develop their independence skills effectively. The wide range of resources is easily accessible. Staff praise children for their achievements, no matter how small. This promotes children good behaviour, self-esteem, and confidence. Staff promote children's awareness of healthy lifestyles and their physical development well. Children enjoy outside play. They paint the walls with water, proudly showing staff the shapes they have made. Children enjoy jumping in muddy puddles and talking about how dirty their wellington boots are and how they have to wash them before they can go inside.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. They are eager and motivated to learn. Staff prepare children well for their next stages in their learning, such as their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101464
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1009291
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 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	43
Name of provider	Christchurch Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2015
Telephone number	01242 578163 or 01452 548525

Christ Church Pre-School Playgroup operates from the church hall alongside Christchurch Church, Cheltenham. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm during school terms. Sessions run from 9am to 12 noon, and from 12.30pm to 3pm. Children are able to stay all day, with a lunch session from 12 noon to 12.30pm. The setting is in receipt of funding for children aged two, three and four years. There is a team of seven staff, including an administrator, working at different times during the week. The play leader holds a childcare qualification at level 5 and five staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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