

Ditchling Pre-School Playgroup

Scout Hut, East End Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex, BN6 8SX



Inspection date	24 September 2015
Previous inspection date	28 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 make good progress from their starting points due to good quality teaching.
- Children behave well given their ages and stages of development. Staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management.
- Children's independence skills are nurtured well, for example, during snack times. Staff teach the children how to peel their fruit and pour drinks.
- Leadership and management of the playgroup are strong. Staff all work together to set achievable targets for the children to work towards. They use the views of the parents well to make improvements to the services on offer. This greatly improves the quality of teaching and care that staff provide.
- Children learn about the wider world around them through well-planned activities. Staff take time to teach the children about different festivals and celebrations.
- Staff promote children's health and well-being effectively. The good access to physical activities, both inside and out, promotes these well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always fully promote children's early writing development.
- Staff do not ensure there are sufficient and varied resources available to significantly encourage children's imagination during creative activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to practise early writing skills during activities
- review and take steps to improve the availability and variety of resources that encourage children's imagination and creative development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main hall and the garden during the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed documents and sampled policies, procedures and children's files.
- The inspector spoke with the chair of the committee, manager and the staff at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Rebecca Hurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and attend regular training to refresh their knowledge. The manager works closely with the committee to keep up to date with their policies and procedures. The staff supervise children well as they make sure they can always see them. Staff effectively promote children's awareness of their own safety. For example, they conduct regular evacuation drills so children learn what to do in an emergency. Staff work closely with local early years advisors to make improvements to their practice. The manager and committee carry out regular supervisions with staff, which helps highlight staff training needs. This helps improve children's learning. The manager monitors children's files and assessments carefully to make sure they all progress well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carry out detailed observations and assessments on children. They use these well to note children's development and complete the required progress checks for two-year-olds. Staff provide good continuity of care for children. For example, they work closely with the parents to share children's stages of development and discuss ways to support children's learning at home. This enables them all to work together to progress children's learning and development. Staff are skilled in promoting children's language and mathematical development. For example, they use effective questions to enable children to think about their answers. Children enjoyed working out how many cups of fruit juice they could get out of the bottle to decide how many guests to invite for the tea party. Children enjoy helping each other, for example, they ask if others need help in hanging their wet artwork to dry. Staff praise the children well, which promotes their self-esteem.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Mealtimes are positive social occasions and staff routinely talk with children about healthy lifestyles. For example, they talk about the fruit they eat and discuss why it is good for them. Children enjoy exploring the well-resourced garden. They strengthen their physical skills as, for example, they enjoy playing in ride-on cars and on balance beams. Staff teach children about the importance of sharing and taking turns. This encourages children's confidence as they ask for their turn on resources. Staff promote children's safety well. This is because they carry out regular risk assessments and daily safety checks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. They develop skills to promote independence and this helps them as they move on to their next stage in learning or school. Children comfortably sit and listen to each other's views during group activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511252
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	826254
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Ditchling Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2011
Telephone number	01273846115

Ditchling Pre-School Playgroup registered in 2001 and is located in Ditchling, East Sussex. The playgroup is open each weekday during school term times only, from 9.15am to 1.15pm. Tuesday is specifically for the older children. The playgroup operates 'early bird' sessions on Tuesday and Thursday from 8.55am to 9.15am. There are seven members of staff, of whom six hold appropriate early years qualifications, including two staff with Qualified Teacher Status.

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