

Inspection of Whimble Preschool Playgroup

Victory Hall, Whimble, Exeter, Devon EX5 2SU

Inspection date: 2 December 2019

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The manager and staff work together, to provide an inspiring and nurturing environment for children to enjoy. They regularly discuss what the children like and consider how best to offer more interesting and challenging activities. Staff receive good support from the committee to help them reflect on their practice and identify what they do well and the areas for improvement. Staff are caring and attentive, they warmly welcome children and parents into the preschool. As a result, children happily separate from their parents and enthusiastically join in with the wide range of exciting activities available. Children form good relationships with staff and each other. They play well together, for example, taking turns to build different shapes with the large wooden blocks. Staff praise children for their efforts and children are pleased with the patterns created. Children are developing self-care skills and independence, as they put on their own coats and wellies for outdoor play.

Staff have high expectations for all children. They offer a wide range of support to children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure children receive the assistance that they need. Staff help children to manage their emotions when they face difficulties and to build their resilience. Children are very well behaved and polite.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The committee and staff work together to promote the preschool as an important part of the community. There are good links with the local school and other groups. Staff know children and their families very well.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They provide a range of activities that are stimulating and enhance children's development. For example, children enjoy using hand whisks to make more bubbles in the water. Staff skilfully extend children's learning by suggesting the handle is turned both ways and at different speeds. Children show delight and laugh as the foam builds.
- Staff place a high emphasis on promoting children's personal, social and emotional development. They regularly praise efforts; as well as achievements, to promote children's self-esteem and confidence. Children play well together and build happy friendship groups. They eagerly try new experiences.
- Staff promote children's communication and language skills well. They enthusiastically talk about the activities and ask children relevant questions. Staff repeat, model and introduce new vocabulary. Staff and children regularly sing songs and practice rhyming words together.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to be active and spend time in the large outside play area. For example, they enjoy pretending to be pirates sailing on the large wooden boat. Staff encourage children to think about where they are going and what they will do when they arrive. This helps develop children's

imagination skills very well. However, staff do not make the most of these opportunities to help children to develop counting skills, or an interest in numerals.

- Children have many interesting opportunities to develop their physical skills by using a range of equipment, both indoors and outdoors. Staff provide support to help children successfully cut with scissors and stick decorations to Christmas shapes. Children learn to manage risks, for example when walking along balance equipment in the outside play area.
- Children enjoy drawing pictures on clipboards during outside play time. Staff encourage them to think about representing different emotions, as they draw the facial features. Children show a good awareness of how they, and others, show feelings and sensitivity to their friends' needs. However children are not consistently supported to know how to name and sound letters, or develop early writing skills.
- There is a strong commitment to work in partnership with parents. Staff provide parents with regular updates about children's interests and learning, so they can be supported at home. Parents are highly complimentary of the preschool and comment on how secure and happy their children are.
- Staff provide a range of nutritious snacks. They talk to the children about what they are eating and promote children's understanding of healthy foods. Snack time and lunchtime are social occasions. Staff listen to children with interest and engage them in conversation. This makes them feel valued and listened to.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff regularly complete safeguarding training. They ensure they have up-to-date knowledge and understand current legislation such as the 'Prevent' duty guidance. Staff know what to do if they have a safeguarding concern about a child or a member of staff. They monitor children's attendance and take appropriate action when needed. Staff complete regular risk assessments to ensure all areas are safe for children to play in. The manager and staff have made improvements to their safeguarding procedures, as a result appropriate records are maintained. Staff remind children of the importance of considering their own safety and of others.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the planning of activities in the outside play area, to provide more opportunities for children to further develop their skills in mathematics and literacy.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106065
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10114767
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 to 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Whimble Pre School Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522086
Telephone number	07794 652549
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2019

Information about this early years setting

Whimble Preschool Playgroup registered in 1992 and operates in the village of Whimble, near Exeter, Devon. The playgroup opens on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am until 3.30pm, and on Thursday from 9am until 1pm, during term time only. There are six members of staff. Of these, one holds early years teacher status and two hold qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Linda Williamson

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- A joint observation of an activity was carried out by the inspector and the manager.
- Meetings were held with the manager.
- The inspector sampled documentation including evidence of the suitability of staff, their qualifications and children's records.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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