

Inspection of Northleach Playgroup

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

Inspection date: 16 October 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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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

Children enter the playgroup happily, separating from their carers with ease. They quickly settle down and choose the activities they wish to take part in. Staff warmly greet the children and their parents, who are welcomed into the playgroup to settle their children should they wish. Children show they have formed secure relationships with staff, such as by sharing their news. They demonstrate they know the routines as they hang up their coats and bags where their photo is on display. Children engage in role play based on first-hand experiences. Staff support them well, talking to them and encouraging them to recall their personal experiences as they play. This helps support children to develop their imagination.

The staff have a clear vision for their curriculum. They plan experiences to help children gain the skills and knowledge they need in readiness for their move to school. Staff monitor the children's progress carefully. They seek support and advice from the local authority team when there are gaps in children's learning, allowing them to put plans in place to help them catch up. Overall, children make good progress in their learning and development.

Children develop a love of books. They independently choose books and ask staff to read to them, which they do animatedly to engage children's interests. Children have plenty of opportunities to develop their hand-eye coordination and strengthen their hand muscles in readiness for early writing. For example, children scoop bird food with a spoon, fill up the feeder and enjoy painting pictures.

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

- The staff have made significant improvements since the last inspection to meet the actions raised and improve the quality of the curriculum. They have sought advice and support from the local authority and attended training, which has had a positive impact on children's behaviour and their all-round learning.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff have created a 'calm' space where children can have time away from the group. They look at books with staff, who help them to learn to talk about their feelings and how to manage them. Staff praise the children for their acts of kindness, such as when they share resources or play cooperatively. This helps children understand positive behaviours and to be respectful to others.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills effectively. They provide small-group sessions to support children's listening skills and encourage them to describe objects in a box so that others can guess what is in there. Staff extend children's vocabulary by introducing words such as 'bristles' and 'handle'.
- Children develop good levels of independence. Staff support them to put on and take off their coats, all-weather suits and boots, and to hang them up or put

them away. Children enjoy taking responsibility as they hand out the plates and cups at snack time. Staff encourage simple counting during routines, such as asking children to take two pieces of apple or cheese.

- Children enjoy playing outside in all weathers. Staff provide a range of physical activities to help children build their gross motor skills. Children run around with confidence, negotiate spaces, climb and balance. Staff help them develop new skills in rolling hoops along the ground, which children enjoy practising.
- Staff report that they feel very supported in the playgroup and have regular access to training and development opportunities. Some staff have recently attended 'Getting it Right for Boys' training and have implemented new ideas as a result. For example, staff do not routinely disturb children's play unnecessarily to get them to join in with group times. When children need to finish their play for snack or mealtimes, staff offer plenty of time for them to prepare for the change and use visual aids, such as sand timers. This has successfully reduced unwanted behaviour, particularly from the boys.
- Overall, partnerships with parents are good. Parents report that their children enjoy coming to the playgroup. They are very pleased with the progress that their children have made, particularly their speech, language and confidence. However, staff do not consistently engage effectively with parents to help them encourage their children to manage their personal needs early enough.
- Staff get to know the children well and plan activities based on their interests and individual needs. However, they do not liaise quickly enough with other adults caring for the children at other settings they attend. This means they do not have enough detailed information to provide full consistency in supporting some children's development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- engage parents more effectively in supporting some key aspects of their children's personal, social, and emotional development between the nursery and home
- liaise more swiftly with adults at other settings children attend, to fully promote consistency in their learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101531
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10356623
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Northleach Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519891
Telephone number	01451860019
Date of previous inspection	22 May 2024

Information about this early years setting

Northleach Playgroup opened in 1992 and is situated in Northleach, to the south-east of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The playgroup is open each weekday during term time between 9am and 3pm. There are five staff working directly with the children. The manager holds a level 3 early years qualification, two members of staff hold qualifications at level 3 and two have a level 2 qualification. The playgroup offers government-funded places for childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Charlotte Jenkin

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together and talked about the curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children, indoors and outdoors, and the impact of these on children's learning.
- Staff spoke to the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled some documentation, including suitability checks and qualification certificates.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation of an activity and discussed the impact of this on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector, who took account of these.
- Children told the inspector what they enjoy doing while at the playgroup.

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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