

St. Nicolas Playgroup (Taplow)

The Reading Rooms, Taplow Village Centre, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0EX



Inspection date	22 May 2015
Previous inspection date	23 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment for children. They organise a wide range of stimulating activities, indoors and outdoors, to promote all areas of children's learning.
- Staff develop positive relationships with individual children and know them well. They follow children's interests so that they become independent learners and make good progress.
- Management and staff ensure that robust policies and procedures are in place, and shared with parents, to promote children's safety and well-being.
- Management and staff work in partnership with parents to ensure a consistent approach to children's learning and development.
- Most staff hold qualifications at level 3. In addition, all staff attend training and supervision meetings which help them to develop their practice and improve the quality of provision for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always help children to fully understand when it is time to move on to the next activity, so children are sometimes unsure about routines.
- Staff do not always enable children to focus on their chosen activities uninterrupted, for example, when they use technology resources. As a result, children are not always able to complete activities to extend their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further ways to help children understand when it is time to move on to other activities, so that they learn to become more familiar with changes in the routine
- enable children to fully focus on their chosen activities without distraction, so that they are able to fully complete tasks to their satisfaction and extend their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled policies and procedures, children's development records, and a range of documentation to promote children's safety and well-being.
- The inspector discussed with the deputy manager, the procedures for safeguarding children, the suitability of staff and action plans for the future.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and spoke to children on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Vanessa Brown

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children are happy because staff engage and challenge them well. Staff recognise that children learn through play and follow their interests well. Consequently, children make good progress. Staff provide activities that extend children's learning, for example, as they reinforce their understanding of fruit and vegetables. They provide opportunities for children to plant bean seeds and teach children what makes them grow. Children learn what happens when fruit decays. They excitedly explore the smells and textures, and use magnifying glasses to view items closely. These opportunities clearly promote children's understanding of the world around them. Children develop their hand-eye coordination as they carefully concentrate on scooping soil into plant pots and making holes in this for their beans. Staff work with children in small groups to teach children letters and the sounds they make. Therefore, they promote children's language and their early reading and writing skills well, ready for school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff form strong emotional bonds with children and help them to settle well, and develop confidence and independence. Therefore, they promote children's personal, social and emotional development effectively. Staff are consistent in encouraging positive behaviour. They remind children not to run indoors and to share and take turns. As a result, children learn to manage their own behaviour and children of different ages play well together. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. They encourage children to wash their hands before snacks and after going to the toilet. Children have daily opportunities for outdoor play to develop their physical skills. They dig in the sand, run around with their friends and enjoy climbing the ladder to go down the slide. Staff encourage children to count as they climb the steps, so use good opportunities to promote their mathematical development.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Management and staff have a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have robust policies to safeguard children which follow the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. Management and staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child or a member of staff. Staff complete risk assessments daily to ensure the premises are clean, safe and secure. Therefore, they promote children's safety and well-being. Management ensures that staff monitor and assess children's progress, so that planning promotes children's next stages of development effectively. Management and staff take into account the views of parents, children and others, to set challenging targets and improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY240777
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	832908
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	St Nicolas Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 November 2011
Telephone number	01628 664 476 or 01628 604799

St. Nicolas Playgroup (Taplow) registered in 2002. It operates from the village of Taplow, in Buckinghamshire. The sessions operate each weekday, from 9.15am to 12.15pm, during term times only. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs nine staff, seven of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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