

Christchurch Playgroup

Christ Church, 155 Highbury Grove, London, N5 1SA



Inspection date	15 December 2015
Previous inspection date	12 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The manager is committed to providing a good-quality provision. She uses effective self-evaluation processes, including gathering the views of parents, such as through questionnaires, in order to identify areas for further improvement.
- Staff plan a wide range of interesting activities for the children. All children engage well during play, showing a real motivation to learn.
- Staff are kind and caring, and have strong relationships with children, which supports new children in particular to settle quickly. Children are happy and enjoy their time at the playgroup.
- Staff have established effective partnerships with parents. They involve parents when reviewing children's progress and suggest ways that they can support their children at home. Parents report that they are pleased with the care and education their children receive.
- Staff provide good experiences that help to increase children's knowledge of diversity, including similarities and differences between themselves and others. For example, they learn about different cultural celebrations and religious festivals, and try foods from other countries.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the organisation of large-group activities means that some children lose focus and are not able to benefit fully from the experience.
- Occasionally, some staff miss opportunities to encourage children to do things for themselves, such as during daily routines, to promote their independence skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of larger group activities to enhance children's enjoyment during all learning opportunities
- increase further opportunities for children to manage some daily tasks by themselves to strengthen their independence skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom, and accompanied staff and children to a nearby park area.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, planning documents, the setting's policies and procedures, as well as evidence of the qualifications and suitability of all staff.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff at suitable times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with parents and carers, and considered their views.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff keep children safe; they know how to identify children who may be at risk of harm and the procedures to follow if they have any welfare concerns. The manager uses robust recruitment methods to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. She implements an effective system to manage performance and offers staff ongoing support. For example, staff attend regular training in order to enhance their knowledge and continually improve their teaching skills, which benefits the children in their care. The manager monitors the progress of different groups of children and addresses any emerging gaps in their learning. For example, she has enhanced children's knowledge of technology further by introducing new resources, such as computer tablets and remote-controlled cars.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively extend children's language development; for example, they skilfully question children and talk to them about what they are doing. Staff plan the learning environment well, particularly to encourage children to move confidently around choosing the toys and activities they wish to explore. Staff have a good understanding of how children learn through play. They identify children's interests from when they start at the playgroup and provide activities that engage all children to learn. Staff promote children's language development well. For example, they use words from children's home languages to help promote their speech and communication skills. They ensure that they challenge older children, for example, by introducing letters with their speech sounds and encouraging early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The experienced staff work well together and set a good example for children to follow. They provide clear boundaries, and ensure that children are kind towards one another and play together cooperatively. Staff establish good relationships with local primary schools. For example, they invite them to visit the children before they start in reception, in order to support children prepare to their transfer on to school. Children benefit from nutritious meals, and staff talk to them about where their food comes from and encourage healthy eating. Children enjoy daily fresh air, such in the garden and when visiting the park and local amenities. They have opportunities to develop their physical skills, for example, when using the large indoor slide.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff work closely with other professionals to support children with special educational needs. All children make good progress, including those who are learning to speak English as an additional language. Staff prepare children effectively for their eventual move to school by ensuring they help them to gain the necessary skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131677
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	846359
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 - 8
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Christchurch Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 September 2011
Telephone number	020 7354-3117

Christchurch Playgroup registered in November 1994. It is based in Highbury, in the London Borough of Islington. The playgroup opens five days a week during term time. Sessions run from 9.15am to 11.15am and 9.15am to 1.10pm for children who stay for lunch. There are five staff who work with the children, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years.

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