

Harpsden Pre School Playgroup



Harpsden Village Hall, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 4HH

Inspection date	30 April 2015
Previous inspection date	9 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff actively seek children's ideas and opinions and reflect on these when improving and developing the pre-school. This empowers children and gives them a sense of belonging and ownership.
- Strong working relationships with other professionals, and the local schools, ensure children's needs are well met and they are prepared for their move up to school.
- Parents speak very highly of the pre-school and the strong relationships formed between their children and the staff. They feel that their children make exceptional progress in all areas of learning.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of how to develop and extend children's learning. This leads to well-planned and highly focussed learning opportunities.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of how to support and develop children's language skills. They use a variety of techniques such as modelling new vocabulary, extending children's sentences and waiting a suitable length of time for children to respond and form verbal responses.
- The pre-school routine is well organised and ensures children's learning and play is optimised. Staff have dealt with some complex issues, such as limited toilet facilities and difficulties accessing the outdoors, extremely effectively.
- The staff team and the committee are highly reflective of their practice. They work well as a cohesive team to set targets for development. This ensures the pre-school is continually improving and striving for best practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further embed the newly implemented small group sessions, to deliver targeted support to children with specific needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at free play and in group times, and staff interactions with them.
- The inspector sampled documents, including policies, attendance records, risk assessments and safeguarding documentation.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and manager conducted a joint observation.

Inspector

Natasha Crellin

Inspection findings

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

High-quality teaching and an expert understanding of how children learn supports children to make excellent progress. They are enthusiastic, highly motivated and make full use of all aspects of the pre-school. Staff plan sessions that meet each child's individual needs, which ensures they are interested and focussed. For example, children have opportunities to develop their hand strength and coordination playing with small pipettes in a water tray. This helps them develop the strength and coordination they need when they learn to write. Assessment of children's learning is precise and sharply focused. Parents contribute by providing information about children's learning at home. This supports children to make rapid progress. Staff create outstanding play opportunities, indoors and out. Children enjoy exploring the wooded area by the field. Staff encourage children to take measured risks as they balance on logs and step over nettles. This helps children develop an understanding of how to stay safe.

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

Staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibility to safeguard and protect children. They implement comprehensive policies and risk assessments to keep children safe. Children are supported to learn skills to build friendships and manage their self-care. As a result, all children display confidence, develop high levels of self-esteem and are well prepared for school. Staff deploy themselves well. This means they are on hand to support children quickly and effectively. There is a highly effective key-person system. Staff often visit children and families at their homes before they come to the nursery, which means that they quickly form relationships with their key person, and settle quickly when they start.

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

The staff work as a close and supportive team. The manager delegates responsibilities effectively to make best use of the staff's areas of expertise. All staff demonstrate an uncompromising ambition to deliver a first-rate service and are reflective of their strengths and areas for development. They are confident to try new initiatives, such as delivering focused teaching to groups of children with specific needs. This is an area they are currently developing and there is scope to embed this further. The pre-school has developed strong relationships with other professionals, such as speech therapist and physiotherapists. This ensures that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported. Highly effective staff supervision monitors performance and identifies training needs. Staff are well trained in using the outdoors and in assessment, giving them levels of expertise that have led to them offering support to other pre-schools in the area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133683
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	841001
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Harpsden Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2011
Telephone number	01491 598280

Harpsden Pre-School Playgroup registered in 1993. It is operates from Harpsden Village Hall, near Henley-on-Thames. The pre-school is open Monday to Thursday, from 9.15am to 12 noon, with the older children attending a lunch club on Mondays and Tuesdays until 1pm. The pre-school is open term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged three and four. The pre-school employs six staff, of whom one holds Qualified Teacher Status and the remaining five hold qualifications at level 3.

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