

Upton St Leonards Playgroup

10 Bondend Road, Upton St. Leonards, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL4 8AG



Inspection date	26 April 2017
Previous inspection date	26 January 2015

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 evaluates the provision effectively. For example, she has increased opportunities for children to exercise by introducing outdoor sessions where they enjoy pretending to move like animals and vehicles. The manager knows that making links between home and playgroup will support stronger partnerships with parents and has plans to make the results of her evaluations available to them.
- Children focus well in their learning. The manager and staff plan interesting activities with age-appropriate resources. For example, older children enjoy building intricate models with small-scale construction bricks.
- Children have lots of opportunities to be physically active during the day. In the garden, they build on a big scale with small pallets, planks of wood and bricks. Children run and jump in the field as they play with balls and hoops and enjoy being active.
- Children enjoy making links in their learning. For example, they play with play dough and sticks to create birthday cakes. They count three candles on their cake, which prompts them to recall and retell a story about three bears.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff understand that some more boisterous children prefer to learn outdoors. However, resources to support early reading and writing outdoors are very limited.
- The manager does not sharply monitor the progress of some groups of children, such as the older ones, to promptly identify and target potential gaps in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that children who prefer to learn outdoors have sufficient opportunities to explore reading and writing in their play and learning
- develop the monitoring of groups of children further, to track the progress of older children more effectively and to identify and target potential gaps in their learning more promptly.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed care and teaching practices indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a leadership and management discussion with the manager and the chairperson.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation.

Inspector

Patricia Pillay

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures that staff know the actions to take if they are concerned about a child's safety. The manager has created a display board to increase awareness of safeguarding issues. The manager and the committee use safer recruitment well to ensure that suitable people work with the children. The manager has attended safer recruitment training. The manager observes staff practice to identify any training needs. For example, diversity awareness training has enabled staff to understand children and their families more fully. The manager and staff quickly identify children's additional needs. They seek prompt support and guidance from other professionals. For example, they work closely with speech and language professionals.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Key persons assess individual children's progress well to identify and plan for next steps in children's learning. For example, children develop good scissor skills as they cut pictures to create passports. Staff have a flexible approach to planning and include children's developing interests well. For example, children enjoy exploring ways to make big bubbles in the garden. Staff introduce mathematical vocabulary well into children's play. They talk about size and shape as younger children make play dough models, which older children use to explore addition and subtraction. Staff teach children well to take responsibility for their environment and tidy away toys ready for the next activity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children well to develop good social skills. For example, they introduce visitors and remind children to take care of them. Staff prepare older children well for their move to school. For example, children develop their independence skills as they change into shorts for their physical education session and put coats and shoes away on their named pegs. Older children readily take responsibility for their own personal hygiene needs. Staff and parents have strong partnerships. This supports children's emotional well-being and they enjoy seeing their parents as parent helpers. Staff make time to talk to parents daily. Parents feel well informed about their children's progress.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy making choices about where they will play. They move freely between indoors and outdoors for much of the day. Children are happy and comfortable in the setting. For example, they begin to build special friendships as they share books together in the cosy reading corner. Children learn about their wider community during walks with staff around the village and occasional trips to local places of interest. Children learn to make healthy eating choices, as staff and children eat together at lunch and snack times and talk about what they are eating.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101748
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1088871
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	72
Name of registered person	Upton St Leonards Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519935
Date of previous inspection	26 January 2015
Telephone number	07833 973122

Upton St Leonards Playgroup started in 1966 and registered with Ofsted in 2001. The playgroup operates from Upton St Leonards village hall in Gloucestershire. The playgroup is open each weekday during school term time from 9.15am to 2.45pm. It employs eight staff, seven of whom hold level 3 qualifications. The playgroup has strong links with the village school.

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