

Calton Road Playgroup

Calton Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 5ET



Inspection date

6 July 2018

Previous inspection date

23 April 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager and staff establish effective partnerships with other professionals. They follow advice closely to support individual children's needs.
- The manager monitors the progress of groups of children well. For example, she identified that some older boys did not enjoy writing. She introduced activities outdoors, such as painting walls with water. Older boys now engage more and gaps are closing.
- Staff provide excellent support for children to be comfortable with routines. For example, they know that some children dislike changes. They use small bells to introduce changes, and provide individual support with gentle verbal reminders. They sing songs to mark changes, which tell what will happen next, such as going outside.
- Staff very skilfully show children that their thoughts are valued, such as when children share special moments with their key person.
- Staff make very good use of exciting activities to teach children about keeping healthy. For example, staff and children all join in with five minutes of fun exercises to music each morning to 'wake up' all parts of their bodies, ready for learning.
- Children readily take responsibility for their actions, for instance, they quickly say sorry when they accidentally hurt another child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not ensure that staff give children sufficient time to think and respond before providing them with the answers to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve staff skills to ensure that children have sufficient time to think and express their own ideas, before giving them the answers to questions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the setting and discussed health and safety with the manager.
- The inspector observed care and teaching practices indoors and outdoors, and completed a joint observation of practice with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents, staff and children, and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including those relating to statutory requirements.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the manager.

Inspector

Patricia Pillay

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know the signs that would alert them to concerns and the actions they should take. Staff assess risks effectively to keep children safe. For instance, they know that the playhouse is very hot in sunny weather. They talk about this with the children and agree that they will not use it after lunch. Staff establish boundaries for children when they play in the school playground and teach them to be safe. The manager monitors staff performance and training well to improve their practice. For example, staff attended training to support mathematical learning. They now ensure that mathematical games meet the needs of children with advanced skills. They share ideas with parents to extend learning and send home mathematical games. Staff update statutory training often. The manager and staff evaluate practice well to make prompt improvements, such as introducing forest sessions to increase children's outdoor learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide an enticing range of resources to support children's learning across the curriculum, indoors and outdoors. Children make choices in their play and easily access the wide range of resources to explore, examine and experiment with, such as the baskets with natural resources of cones, pebbles, bark and bamboo tubes. Staff provide many opportunities for children to learn about the world around them. For example, they learn where food comes from as they grow vegetables, which they cook to make soup and vegetable crisps with staff. Children enjoy using magnifiers to watch snails eating vegetables. They measure their growing plants and count the legs on the bugs they find.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff make very good use of the environment for children to extend their learning. For instance, they have created a stage where children eagerly and very confidently perform songs and dances. Children learn very well about communities beyond their own. For example, staff use children's stories and art to create highly interesting displays about different celebrations, which children frequently revisit and discuss. Staff use photographs of people expressing an extensive range of emotions exceptionally well. Children learn very effectively about these and name their emotions. Children are extremely kind and caring. Staff establish highly effective partnerships with parents and regularly share assessments of children's learning. They involve parents very well, such as by providing books, games and craft packs to use at home.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy and confident. They are independent and take responsibility for putting things away. This helps to prepare them well for their move to school. Children learn to care for their environment. For example, they have made a garden by the playhouse. They enjoy make-believe picnics surrounded by the flowers they have planted. They know that they need to care for the flowers and water them daily. Children enjoy sharing books and conversations in the cosy dens they have built in the garden.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101623
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1088861
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Calton Road Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904835
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2015
Telephone number	01452 522202

Calton Road Playgroup registered in 2001. It is located in the grounds of Calton Road Primary School in Gloucester. The playgroup operates from Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm and on Friday from 9am to midday during term time only. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are five members of staff working with the children. Of these, three have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one has an appropriate early years qualification at level 2.

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