

Inspection of The Village Playgroup

The Village Centre, Church Street, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6QE

Inspection date: 8 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children show very high levels of engagement and confidence. As soon as they arrive, children are eager and confident to get involved in activities. Younger children have familiarised themselves very quickly and confidently with the routines. Children receive excellent emotional support and enjoy good relationships with staff.

Children's behaviour is impeccable. They independently ask others to share with them and work out strategies to make sure that it is fair for everyone. Staff have high expectations of all children, and the children rise to these continuously.

Children are very articulate and, for example, some are keen to show visitors their favourite and ambitious dance moves. When asked what they like about playgroup, they say, 'I like playing everything.' The way that children communicate using sign language is inspirational. They solve problems, for example as a member of staff uses only signing to give children clues about who the 'helper of the day' could be.

Children are absolutely enthralled by favourite stories. They independently select puppets and re-enact 'The Three Little Pigs', using animation, intonation and familiar refrains to act out the different characters. Children show much pride in their achievements. For example, they draw a picture of themselves and say that they are taking it home for mummy because 'mummy will love the picture of me'.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff work tirelessly to set up a rich indoor and outdoor learning environment for children each day. Children thoroughly enjoy looking behind bushes in the field to find pictures of different animals and bugs. They collect water from the water butt to mix with sand. Children transport items in the wheelbarrow on their way to the logs and, together, they upturn them to find insects.
- Staff's teaching skills are exemplary. They know the children exceptionally well and ensure that their individual needs and interests are prioritised. Staff skilfully structure and sequence their high-quality curriculum and adapt their teaching accordingly. They allow children to initiate their own thoughts and ideas, model what they are doing and ask open-ended questions to give children time to think. They skilfully consolidate and extend children's learning. For example, when children show an interest in a spirit level, staff show them how the bubble indicates whether something is level or not. Children giggle as the wind blows the curtain, and staff listen as children explore all sorts of ideas about why this is happening, even that it might be 'the big bad wolf' from a favourite story.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is excellent. All staff are consistent in their approach. Staff work very closely with

other professionals and parents. This means that children who require additional support make rapid progress from their starting points.

- Children show amazing collaboration skills. They work together to solve puzzles, sensitively indicating to others when a piece is incorrectly placed. Children all take full responsibility for tidying up. They confidently sort items into a group. For example, children place all the name cards back on the board and sort these into their correct colour groups. Some children are extremely observant and confident to say when one is in the incorrect group. Some children show excellent skills and knowledge. For example, the most able children can sound out and recognise difficult words, identify many different countries on the world map and do simple sums. Staff are exemplary in identifying children's key strengths and extending this learning according to their needs. Therefore, children develop a real eagerness to learn more, which provides a secure foundation for when they start school.
- Children enjoy healthy snacks and packed lunches. They develop high levels of independence, for example as they sanitise their hands without being prompted, select their cup and plate, pour their own drinks and clear their plates of waste.
- Parents are extremely happy with the playgroup. They acknowledge that staff challenge their children so that they 'flourish and gain independence'. They say, 'Nothing is ever too much trouble for staff.' Communication with parents is superb. Staff use various methods to communicate with parents, including weekly emails, an online programme and books which go between playgroup and home.
- The manager and staff constantly look at new ways to develop and improve their already high-quality provision. Staff supervision is highly effective in supporting staff's performance, professional development and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a very secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures and policies. They understand the signs that a child may be at risk of harm and/or neglect and the process for reporting or referring any concerns. This includes those they may have about a colleague's behaviour towards children. Staff have a strong understanding of wider safeguarding issues, such as children being drawn into extremist views or radicalisation. Recruitment procedures are robust to ensure that only those suitable to work with children do so. Staff place utmost priority on the safety of children. Children show in their behaviours that they trust staff implicitly and feel extremely comfortable in their care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260895
Local authority	Peterborough
Inspection number	10137532
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	The Village Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517233
Telephone number	07884151226
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2015

Information about this early years setting

The Village Playgroup registered in 1999. The playgroup operates from The Village Centre in Werrington, near Peterborough. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 2.15pm. A lunch club also operates each day from 12.15pm until 1pm. The playgroup employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Anna Davies

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the playgroup received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the playgroup.
- The manager and the inspector had a learning walk together and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Children spoke to the inspector about the activities they were doing.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- Some parents spoke to the inspector during the inspection and others provided written feedback. The inspector took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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