

Bobtails Playgroup

Bobtails Play Group, 8a Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, WARE, Hertfordshire, SG12 8EZ



Inspection date

4 March 2016

Previous inspection date

2 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The dedicated and experienced staff team delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage to an outstanding level. They methodically gather information about children's starting abilities and carefully plan and provide specific routines, activities and resources that help all children reach their learning and development goals.
- The high ratios of well-deployed staff ensure that children's safety is secured at all times. Children learn how to identify and manage risks for themselves. They receive positive and encouraging messages from staff, which promote their independence through supporting them to learn how to do things safely for themselves.
- Children settle quickly and are very happy at the playgroup, where they have formed affectionate bonds with the staff and the other children. Staff have established strong and supportive partnerships with parents, carers and other adults in the children's lives. Parents compliment the playgroup because children thrive there.
- Clear and constructive reflective practice enables the manager and committee to highlight any areas for development. This ensures that the ever-changing needs of children and their families are met exceptionally well.
- Regular coffee mornings and parents' evenings ensure that all adults involved with the children are fully informed about their progress, achievement and next steps in learning.
- Regular access to training enables staff to provide fresh and exciting learning opportunities for children. Excellent use of resources and the calm, caring nature of the staff give children the confidence to explore and try new ideas. As a result, children rapidly develop the confidence and skills required to give them a firm start 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:

- enhance the monitoring of children's progress and further involve parents and carers in extending children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and the impact this has on children's learning both indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the playgroup manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a selection of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Susan Parker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The experienced and dynamic leadership team, comprising of the committee, manager and staff, delivers excellent early years teaching and care. Meticulous evaluation and monitoring of staff practice ensures that teaching is highly effective. Staff actively seek the views of parents, carers, children and other agencies, which ensures that they provide specific individual support. For example, children who find the bustle of the start of the playgroup session overwhelming may arrive a little earlier and enter through a separate entrance. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children feel safe and confident. They are listened to and their thoughts and feelings are valued.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The exceptional teaching enhances every child's progress. For example, all children show rapid advances in their prime areas of communication, physical, personal, social and emotional development. Accurate assessments and well-used observations enable children to benefit from the provision of specific activities and individually tailored resources and routines. Information about children's progress at home is gained but not used as effectively as the information gathered while the children are in the playgroup. Children are confident and curious. Staff use very good questioning, which encourages the children to think, make decisions and learn from their experiences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are keen and eager learners. They show pride in their achievements and staff praise their efforts. Children are happy, confident and independent. Staff are highly accomplished in developing secure emotional attachments with the children. Children are motivated to try new experiences and are encouraged to be curious about the world around them. Staff place high importance on behaviour. They are excellent role models and children are showing an exemplary understanding of their expectations. Children show a deep respect for each other in sharing resources and taking turns. Care practices are very effective. Children take part in both indoor and outdoor activities, which are equally exciting. Children's physical well-being is promoted well through regular physical activities, fresh air and exercise. They display an impressive level of self-help skills. Children as young as two years of age, independently wipe their own noses, dispose of the tissues and wash their hands. They also understand how to help themselves when they are hurt. For example, children cheerfully hold a small ice pack on their bump. Staff are very sensitive to children's needs. They chat to them about what happened, how they are feeling, and what they would do differently next time. This promotes trust and reassurance for the children.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children, including those whose starting points are below expectations for their age, are making outstanding progress. Children's access to activities and resources has increased their familiarity and understanding of the world around them. They benefit from an outstanding choice of imaginative and varied hands-on experiences. Children display excellent skills which enhance their readiness for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418533
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	850081
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Bobtails Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 November 2011
Telephone number	01920871273

Bobtails Playgroup was registered in 2010. The playgroup employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with a foundation degree. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during the school term times. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon. The playgroup provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

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