

St George's Playgroup

Church Walk, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 4TT



Inspection date

23 June 2017

Previous inspection date

12 February 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 management team and staff have worked extremely hard to raise the overall quality of the playgroup. They have implemented improvements and regularly monitor the impact this has on children's learning.
- Staff make highly accurate observations and assessments of children's progress. They carefully track learning and monitor the overall development of groups of children. This helps staff to swiftly identify where there are gaps in learning and address them.
- The well qualified and experienced staff team understands the importance of positive relationships and works hard at ensuring children are well settled and happy.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. They understand their feelings and are encouraged to discuss them. They understand the consequences of their actions and the impact this may have on others.
- Superb relationships with parents help staff to support children's individual needs and emotional well-being exceptionally well. They work together to share ideas and support children to reach their full potential. Parents speak warmly and enthusiastically about the playgroup.
- Staff work very closely with other professionals and schools to ensure excellent continuity in care and learning. They support children's move on to school extremely well. Ongoing support is offered in the first term of school to help children become emotionally secure in their new environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the already excellent outdoor area and review the impact on outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, evidence of suitability of staff working at the playgroup and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held discussions with the manager.

Inspector

Shelley O'Brien

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers highly value the staff team and demonstrate excellent leadership skills. Self-evaluation is comprehensive and includes the views of parents, children and staff. This helps to maintain high-quality standards and continuous development. The team have plans to further extend the extremely effective forest school approach that is followed within the playgroup. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a rigorous and thorough understanding of child protection. They are aware of their responsibilities, any emerging safeguarding issues that may affect children in their care, and of procedures for reporting any concerns about a child's welfare. Targeted training opportunities further enhance the superb teaching of the highly experienced and enthusiastic staff team.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are enthusiastic in their play and engage in a very broad range of stimulating activities based on their interests. They enjoy taking ownership of their environment and freely select activities from carefully planned opportunities. Staff promote children's sense of belonging and independence extremely well. They expertly arrange the play areas to ensure they are inviting, highly stimulating and that they offer challenge to children's learning. Children count with ease and confidence. They fluently discuss shape, number and size when playing with mathematical resources and exploring the natural environment. Staff are highly skilled at encouraging children's thinking and problem-solving abilities. For example, children are asked to consider why a robot has stopped working and how they could fix it. Children are articulate and confident to discuss and explain their thoughts. They communicate exceptionally well given their young ages.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children demonstrate high levels of confidence, self-esteem and emotional security. Staff are sensitive, caring and excellent role models. Children show great respect for their peers. They are considerate of their needs and helpful towards others. Staff help children and families extremely well to gain understanding of leading a healthy lifestyle. Children confidently serve themselves snacks and discuss the healthy items in their lunchboxes. Children have daily opportunities to access the superbly resourced outdoor area which supports their physical development and provides ample learning opportunities. Staff expertly support children in learning about the world around them. They confidently use the available resources to support their rapid learning and development. For example, children make their own see-saw using the natural resources available to them.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children are making outstanding progress from their starting points. They develop a wealth of skills and are extremely well prepared for the next stages in their learning, and for school. Children show curiosity and they investigate, explore and ask meaningful questions. They thrive in the welcoming and highly stimulating environment. Children work well together. They share, take turns and listen to each other's opinions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY248371
Local authority	Trafford
Inspection number	1064386
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Y W C A Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521070
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2013
Telephone number	07837273357

St George's Playgroup registered in 2003. It is managed by a committee. The playgroup employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one is working towards a relevant qualification. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday, from 9.15am to 12.15pm, during term time only. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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