

Stratton Playgroup

New Road, Stratton, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 9AP



Inspection date	16 October 2017
Previous inspection date	4 December 2013

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 committee, manager and staff work very well together to provide a successful playgroup. They monitor children's progress with rigour and take effective steps to identify and close gaps in children's learning. Staff benefit from effective support in their professional development.
- Staff are skilful in their positive behaviour management with children. They teach children to have a very good understanding in taking turns and sharing. Children behave well and develop a good sense of responsibility. For example, children readily respond to staff and willingly help to put things away.
- Effective partnerships with parents and others enable the staff to support the individual needs of children well. Staff use additional funding effectively to provide extra support and resources, to benefit children's individual learning and development.
- Self-evaluation includes the views of parents and is thorough. The committee and manager continuously strive for and achieve improvement in their provision. Current plans include a review of the assessment system and further development of the outdoor play and learning areas.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not consistently vigilant at mealtimes, to fully support children's understanding of good practices in food hygiene and to further develop children's social skills.
- Although staff plan activities well, they do not take all opportunities to enable children to use a wider range of resources and develop their ideas, to broaden their learning experiences further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the arrangements at mealtimes, to provide consistently effective support in children's learning, to reinforce good hygiene practices and further encourage children's social skills
- provide opportunities to involve children further from the beginning to the end of activities, to broaden the planned learning outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager, committee members, staff and parents.
- The inspector observed and spoke to staff and children in their indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector read a sample of children's development records and the self-evaluation form.
- The inspector checked required documentation, including staff qualification certificates and evidence of suitability.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The committee, manager and staff have a clear understanding of their roles to safeguard children's welfare. They update their child protection policies and procedures and complete appropriate training to refresh their good knowledge. The manager is vigilant in monitoring risks and takes prompt action to prevent hazards to keep children safe. To address previous inspection recommendations, staff have improved information sharing with parents and the organisation of group activities. Training is used well to extend staff knowledge and teaching skills, for example, to enhance learning support for two-year-old children. The manager shared knowledge with staff from her degree work. This was used effectively to extend support to parents and children, to prepare them well for playgroup.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff take good account of children's individual learning needs and preferences. They successfully encourage children to contribute ideas and follow their individual interests. For example, children suggest themes for role play, such as an airport, a pirate ship and a house. Staff equip all areas well to encourage continuous learning. For instance, they effectively support literacy and mathematical learning for children who prefer to be outside. Staff are enthusiastic and add interest to activities to inspire children's learning. For example, children play with the glittery dough for sustained periods. Children have great fun as they wave colourful scarves around in a singing and dancing activity. They enjoy learning as staff teach them about letters, numbers and sounds in play. Support to children's communication and language development is good.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff successfully encourage children's self-esteem. Children are proud of their achievements, such as to receive a sticker for being kind and sharing with a friend. Staff use their visual prompts, such as spot and sand timers, to very good effect. They help children fully understand and follow the routines. Staff use a unique voting activity to encourage children to count and to learn about differences. Children benefit greatly from physical play and exercise. For instance, they learn about stretching their muscles and making their hearts beat faster. Children play well together and have good relationships with staff. Information sharing with parents is highly effective. For example, staff explain their teaching methods to parents to promote consistency for children.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their developmental starting points. They are confident and keen to learn. Children show enthusiasm and interest as they choose activities. For example, children are eager to paint and to dress up. Children develop good listening and attention skills, which prepares them well for learning in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	102959
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	1061143
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	23
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Stratton Pre School Playgroup (Bude) Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP903067
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2013
Telephone number	01288 356135

Stratton Playgroup opened in 1983. It operates from its own premises in the grounds of Stratton Primary School in Bude, Cornwall. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3.30pm, during term time. Including the manager, there are eight staff employed to work with the children. Of these, five hold qualifications at level 3, one member of staff is qualified at level 2 and the manager holds a degree level qualification. The playgroup receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years.

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