

St Catharine's Under Fives



St. Catharine's Parish Hall, London Road, Gloucester GL2 0RR

Inspection date	14 March 2019
Previous inspection date	3 May 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
Effectiveness of 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 committee, manager and staff have worked hard to address the weaknesses from the last inspection. All members of the committee are now suitably vetted. Staff now recognise and value children's home languages. The manager carries out monitoring of children's progress accurately to enable them to close any gaps in learning quickly. The manager has improved processes to ensure that staff's professional development is supported effectively.
- Systems for self-evaluation are robust. During regular meetings staff discuss any changes that may be needed to contribute to improving the outcomes for children. For example, they provide more opportunities for children to have a free choice between inside and outside play.
- Children make good progress in their learning relative to their starting points. Staff carry out detailed observations and assessments and track children's progress carefully. They provide a good range of activities to support children's individual needs and interests.
- Children are extremely well behaved. They show respect for each other and the staff. They use their manners with no prompting from the staff. For example, when they are given an item they say 'thank you' naturally.
- Partnerships with parents, carers and other professionals are excellent. Staff value parents highly and involve them in all aspects of children's learning. They work closely with parents and other professionals in providing a two-way flow of information about children's care and development. This ensures continuity of care.
- Staff do not take every opportunity to further develop children's mathematical knowledge to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities to enhance children's mathematical knowledge even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with the children, in the inside and outside learning environment.
- The inspector had a meeting with the manager and offered the opportunity of a joint observation with her.
- The inspector spoke to the chairperson, staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children, and looked at the provider's improvement plans.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, safeguarding procedures and written policies and procedures.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Staff have a good awareness of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. The staff and management have a clear understanding about the procedures to follow should they have any child protection concerns. Staff are clear about the signs and indicators that may alert them to any concerns about a child's welfare. The committee has rigorous recruitment and induction procedures to help ensure the continued suitability of staff. Safeguarding is effective. The manager completes regular monitoring of staff performance to ensure that the good quality of teaching is maintained. The well-established team of qualified staff work effectively together and they are motivated to continue their professional development. For example, recent training has focused on improving how staff communicate with children. Parents speak extremely highly about the care provided, and the detailed information and support they receive from the staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is consistently of a good standard. Staff plan a balanced range of activities to motivate and interest children. Staff support children's communication and language skills very well. They speak to children using clear language and signs when necessary. Children grow in confidence as they learn to express themselves and share ideas. Staff support children's early literacy skills well. They ensure children have easy access to writing materials. Children take great delight in using chalks on the floor outside as they make marks and start to write letters.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff support children incredibly well to develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem. For example, they lavish praise on the children for their achievements and ideas. Staff build strong relationships with the children, and the key-person system works exceptionally well. Staff provide a highly stimulating environment where children play extremely happily. Children are highly motivated and eager to learn. They take great delight as they watch their bubbles disappearing in the sky, and they talk confidently about the wind being very strong and taking their bubbles up high. Staff are excellent role models and treat the children with great care and respect. They teach children about healthy eating, good hygiene and taking exercise very well. For example, children feel and talk about how their heart is beating after physical play.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are active learners. They concentrate well as they carry out tasks, such as when they make rockets using straws and paper. Children laugh and giggle as they blow through the straw and watch the paper shoot off the end of the straw. Children are confident and develop good conversation skills as they talk in the group about what they have done during the session. Children are prepared very well for their next stages in their learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101639
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10084919
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	St Catharine's Under Fives Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519894
Date of previous inspection	3 May 2018
Telephone number	07432 073325

St Catharine's Under Fives registered in 1993. The playgroup employs five members of staff, including an administrator, and they are supported by three bank staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The playgroup operates on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am to 2.30pm and on Tuesday from 9.30am to 12.30pm, during term times only. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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