

Painswick Playgroup

c/o Croft Primary School, Churchill Way, Painswick, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 6RQ



Inspection date	2 July 2015
Previous inspection date	12 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children thrive in this playgroup because skilled staff have an excellent knowledge of children's individual needs, interests and abilities. They use this knowledge to carefully plan for children's future learning.
- All children are supported exceptionally well in their personal, social and emotional development. They receive sensitive and skilled support from staff and become confident and independent.
- Staff instinctively know when to take an active role in children's play to extend their learning and when to stand back and let children play freely, explore and use their own ideas. As a result, children are highly motivated to learn and make outstanding progress from their individual starting points.
- Staff embrace the learning opportunities that the impressive outdoor play areas offer, particularly for children who learn better outdoors. Children excitedly explore and investigate, and develop their physical skills outdoors.
- The joint play leaders work highly effectively together to manage the enthusiastic staff team. They also work exceptionally well with the committee to monitor children's progress and the effectiveness of the provision to drive ongoing improvement.
- Partnerships with parents and others involved in children's care are outstanding. The play leaders' proactive approach to initiate collaborative working leads to high-quality information sharing. This means that children receive excellent support to meet their individual needs.
- All staff have completed safeguarding training and understand their responsibility to keep children safe. Regular safeguarding audits help the team to ensure that their safeguarding measures are extremely robust.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the success of the playgroup's website to further enhance the sharing of information with parents and playgroup users.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children as they played indoors and outdoors, and observed how staff interacted with them.
- The inspector sampled children's progress records, planning documentation, records to demonstrate staff suitability and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector looked at the playgroup's website and information displayed for parents.
- The inspector held discussions with both play leaders and the committee chairperson, and carried out a joint observation with one of the play leaders.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Linda Witts

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The quality of teaching is outstanding. All staff show a natural ability to extend children's learning as they play. Staff ask questions skilfully to encourage all children to think and express their thoughts and ideas. They respond to children's interests and ideas for future activities, and make learning fun. They know that some children learn better outdoors and have created a wonderful outside space. Here children can develop their physical agility, create in the mud kitchen, tend their growing fruits and vegetables, use their imaginations in the playhouse, and explore and investigate the exciting play resources. Children participate in group activities with great enthusiasm. They confidently join in counting, recognise numerals and offer answers to simple calculations. Staff read stories in a way that captures and holds children's avid attention. Children are inspired to learn.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children excitedly arrive and rush in to start playing. Staff give every child and their parents a warm welcome. Children are very settled and happy. They choose what they want to play with from the selection of activities set out and help themselves to additional resources as they wish. Staff are highly successful in managing children's behaviour, praising positive behaviour and fostering children's self-esteem impressively. Children have plenty of opportunities to learn to be independent. They help themselves to water by operating the water dispenser with control and they put on their aprons for messy play. They learn to manage packaging in their lunch boxes and enjoy the social experience of snack and meal times. Children are very familiar with the routine of the day and help to tidy up and sit quietly as they wait for others to join group activities. They take turns and share, and learn to play cooperatively with others. They gain excellent skills to aid their future learning and show great excitement as they prepare to move on to school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The play leaders, staff and committee show great enthusiasm in their roles. They are continuously looking at ways to improve the provision and their practice. For example, staff use sign language training well to promote children's communication skills. Parents are actively encouraged to be involved with their children's learning and many take up opportunities to attend 'stay and play' sessions, and to get involved in fundraising events. Staff share a wealth of information with parents; however, the group's website is not fully developed. Staff are proactive in establishing effective two-way communication with other settings children attend to promote continuity of care and to enhance children's learning. The special educational needs coordinators excel in their role by seeking out and gaining additional help for children who need it.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101673
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	824663
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Painswick Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 July 2010
Telephone number	01452 813316

Painswick Playgroup registered in 1991 and is run by a voluntary management committee. It operates from a self-contained building within the grounds of The Croft School, in Painswick, near Stroud, Gloucestershire. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 12 noon and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. A lunch club runs from 12 noon to 12.30pm. On Fridays, a session runs from 9am until 12 noon with an optional lunch club until 12.30pm. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged three and four. There are six staff, who all hold early years qualifications at level 2 and above.

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