

Westfield Playgroup

Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 4SD



Inspection date	18 March 2015
Previous inspection date	17 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide rich and varied learning environments where children engage in a wide range of challenging and enjoyable activities.
- Staff question children skilfully as they play and improve their learning.
- Staff observe and assess children carefully. They plan for individual children effectively so that every child is helped to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff are caring, kind and friendly. Children form strong emotional attachments to their key person and show they feel secure and happy.
- Staff form effective partnerships with parents and encourage them to share what they know about their children. They work closely together to promote children's care and learning needs at home and in the setting.
- The manager and staff successfully monitor and evaluate their practices and educational programmes. They make positive changes that help improve outcomes for children. For example, they identified and addressed the need to provide more activities to further increase children's awareness of letter sounds.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Planned cooking activities indoors do not always benefit those children who prefer to play and learn outdoors.

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What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children who learn better outdoors greater opportunities to participate in planned cooking activities where they explore simple science.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and talked to members of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and from the setting's parent questionnaires.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector looked at the setting's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

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Inspection findings**How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good**

Children settle quickly as staff get to know them well and provide activities that reflect their interests and abilities. Staff listen carefully to what children are saying. They ask questions that encourage children to describe what they are doing and share their experiences. As a result, children become confident speakers with good communication skills. They develop the skills they need to be ready for school. Staff give children the freedom to explore and investigate independently. Children are keen to take part and try things out with adults nearby to provide guidance when needed. At the inspection, they spent a long time concentrating at activities of their choice. Children planned what they needed to do. They worked together to solve problems as they mixed water and sand to make sand pies. They fetched water from the water butt to fill containers and buckets.

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

Staff actively promote children's understanding of healthy lifestyles. They teach children good personal hygiene practices. Children eat healthy snacks and have easy access to drinking water. They learn to see to their own needs, such as washing their hands before snack time. Children eagerly find and put on their coats to go outside to play. Overall, staff organise the space and activities outdoors effectively to meet children's needs and promote their learning. Children love to explore outdoors and be physically active. For example, at the inspection they had fun painting the walls and fence with water. They showed a strong sense of well-being as they played outside. Children develop good social skills. They share resources, form friendships and behave well.

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

The manager has a secure understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. There are robust recruitment and induction procedures that help ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff complete safeguarding training. They are clear in their understanding of what to do if they have any child protection concerns. Staff carry out risk assessments and daily safety checks. These enable them to identify and minimise hazards to children. As a result, children move around freely and independently. Yearly appraisals and ongoing training help to promote the professional development of staff. Children benefit from staff's increased knowledge and skills. For example, following recent training staff have strengthened their understanding of how to promote children's independence and ability to deal with problems effectively.

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Setting details

Unique reference number	109538
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	835824
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Westfield Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 February 2011
Telephone number	07790 744404

Westfield Playgroup opened in 1968. It operates from a church hall in Westfield, East Sussex. The setting opens every weekday during school term times. Sessions are from 9am to 12 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Thursdays, opening times are from 9am to 3pm. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs six staff, four of whom, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. There is one member of staff who is working towards a recognised qualification at level 2.

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