

The Hut Pre-school and Playscheme

Hinton Close, Newton Road, Bath, BA2 1RX



Inspection date	6 December 2016
Previous inspection date	11 October 2012

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

- Children respond positively to staff and are confident and secure in their care. Staff are friendly and sensitive. They support children's emotional security effectively.
- Children enjoy their play. Staff plan a good range of motivating activities based on children's interests, which help children make good progress from their starting points.
- Management and staff evaluate their practice effectively and make ongoing improvements. For example, staff have developed their awareness of children's particular patterns of play and this has helped them support children's learning well.
- Staff form positive partnerships with parents. They keep parents well informed of children's daily activities. They share information regularly on the children's progress to provide a consistent approach between the setting and home.
- Staff support children's health and physical well-being effectively. Children develop positive attitudes to exercise and, for example, have fun while being energetic.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not monitor children's achievements as accurately as possible to fully support their ongoing progress consistently across the areas of their learning.
- Staff have not established fully effective links with other settings children attend, to share information consistently and support their care and ongoing progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- monitor all children's progress consistently to fully support all areas of their learning
- establish fully effective partnerships with all other settings that children attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector viewed documentation, such as policies, procedures and required records, including those relating to staff suitability.
- The inspector talked with parents.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with management and staff.

Inspector

Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff update their knowledge of their responsibilities in protecting children's welfare. They understand clearly what to do should a safeguarding concern arise. Management implements rigorous recruitment and employment procedures. Management meets with staff regularly and actively encourages their professional development, such as through worthwhile training opportunities. For example, these have helped staff to improve their skills in developing children's early literacy through effective storytelling and early writing.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well and understand their individual ways of learning. They observe children's play carefully and quickly identify where they need further support. They use their knowledge to extend children's learning. For example, they ask children questions about their play that encourage their thinking and ideas. Children enjoy learning through exploration and investigation. For example, they like watching lights change colour in the sensory room. Staff encourage children's creativity well. For example, children learn about textures when they spread glue onto paper and shake colourful glitter on top. Staff encourage children's understanding of the world effectively. For example, children examine ice and watch how it melts. Staff extend this learning very well, such as using technology to show children how people live in Iceland.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff keep consistent and high expectations for children's behaviour and act as good role models for children. For example, they encourage children to use their 'kind hands and walking feet', and help them share and be kind to others. Children enjoy being energetic. For example, they develop their core strength, balance and eagerly climb a rope ladder or jump across musical stepping stones. The youngest children laugh with delight, such as when as they join in the actions of a favourite song and shake their arms and legs. The oldest children giggle excitedly, for instance, when they run and hide together under stretchy material that staff move up and down over their heads.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff support children well in the transfer to school. For example, they talk about what will happen at school with children and who they will meet there. Children begin to recognise familiar shapes, letters and numbers, and they enjoy counting. For example, they guess what is in a circle-shaped present in a favourite story. They enjoy singing the song about the days of the week together and start to sound out the initial letter of each day. Children develop good personal independence. Children gain the necessary skills to help them move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	962775
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	1058781
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Bath Area Play Project
Registered person unique reference number	RP907549
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2012
Telephone number	01225 571511

The Hut Pre-school and Playscheme registered in 1990. It is situated in Twerton, Bath. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm during school terms and the playscheme operates on weekdays from 10am until 3pm during some school holidays. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff employed. One staff member holds early years professional status, one holds a relevant foundation degree and three hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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