

Marlow Opportunity Playgroup

Scout HQ, Watery Lane, Woobum Green, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0NE



Inspection date	3 November 2015
Previous inspection date	15 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is outstanding, and children make excellent progress from their individual starting points. Staff base their planning and support on a precise understanding of children's needs and interests. All children benefit from staff's impressive teaching skills, and gaps in their learning are closing rapidly.
- Children's behaviour is outstanding. They trust the adults who work with them and show that they feel very safe. They work and play happily with each other, take turns and begin to help each other when the opportunity arises. There is an atmosphere of mutual respect throughout the setting, and staff show exceptional respect for the children and a determination for them to succeed.
- Highly effective partnership working ensures that there is a seamless integration of education, care and therapy which serves the best interests of the children. Staff use an excellent range of strategies, including one-to-one support, small groups and whole group teaching. These purposeful interventions contribute effectively to children's rapid progress.
- Leaders' awareness of the playgroup's strengths and weaknesses is accurate, and they regularly check on the quality of teaching and learning. The rigorous procedures for checking staff performance are matched by extensive opportunities for training. Staff are highly qualified and extremely knowledgeable.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the very best use of all areas of the play environments to enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held a meeting with the manager and special educational needs coordinator.
- The inspector looked at children's records, evidence of the staff suitability, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents, professionals, children and staff.

Inspector

Melissa Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. All aspects of safeguarding arrangements are robust and secure. All staff have up-to-date safeguarding training and rigorous checks are used to assess the suitability of all adults working with the children. Staff model high professional standards and actively seek personal development and improvement. Monitoring is robust and staff set ambitious targets for individual children and carefully monitor their progress. They know exactly how well children are learning, and act immediately when they see that individuals or small groups are at risk of falling behind. There is excellent teamwork between staff, therapists, professionals and parents, who work seamlessly together to support children's safety and well-being. Record keeping is meticulous.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan stimulating and engaging activities to capture children's interest, in both indoor and outdoor learning areas. Use of the indoor areas is inspiring. Children concentrate extremely well, persevere in their tasks and always try to do their best. For example, they become engrossed in their activities because they are interesting and imaginative, such as scooping jelly during sensory play. Staff make excellent use of communication techniques they have learnt through training, including signing, and build well on the speech and language therapy offered to children. Children learn to recognise social cues and listen to others. They move calmly and confidently between activities. Staff have trusting partnerships with parents and carers, who hold staff in high regard.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide an exceptionally warm, caring and safe environment. The high standards of care and the innovative and enthusiastic ethos of all staff are well embedded across all aspects of the provision. Children quickly learn the daily routines and benefit greatly from using pictorial timetables to help them understand what is going to happen next. They enjoy individual responsibilities and understand how their involvement in routines and jobs helps to create a smooth-running day. The staff provide extensive opportunities for children to develop confidence and self-esteem, and their individual contributions are celebrated. Children's health needs are exceptionally well met. Staff are well trained on each child's additional medical needs and efficiently follow care plans to promote their continued good health. Children are developing an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles and enjoy taking part in a wide range of physical activities.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Disadvantaged children, disabled children and those who have special educational needs make rapid progress given their individual starting points. They are exceptionally well prepared for their move to their next setting or school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419740
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	822674
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Marlow Opportunity Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	01628521890

Marlow Opportunity Playgroup registered in 2010. It is situated in the Scout Hut in the village of Woburn Green in Buckinghamshire. It offers specialist care to disabled children and those who have special educational needs. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and for two weeks during the summer from 10am to 12.30pm for holiday sessions for children up to the age of eight years. The playgroup employs 17 full-time and part-time staff, including a number with specialist qualifications to meet the wide-ranging health needs of the children attending. A number of professional agencies and health workers work alongside the staff team daily. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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