

Coalway Early Years

63 Coalway Road, Coalway, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7HL



Inspection date

9 May 2018

Previous inspection date

18 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 ambitious management and staff have made significant progress since the last inspection. They are highly focused and passionate about giving children the best start. Self-evaluation is accurate and takes account of the views of children, staff and parents.
- All children settle quickly in this very happy playgroup. They become confident, independent explorers and develop excellent relationships with staff and each other. This helps support their emotional well-being exceptionally well.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff are exceptional role models who truly value and acknowledge each child. Children are very polite and respectful to each other. For example, older children demonstrate considerable thoughtfulness for younger children and their peers as they help them to discover how magnets can only work with metal.
- The skilled staff deliver an exciting range of well-planned play experiences. Children have fun and enjoyment, alongside staff who support them extremely well.
- Partnership working with parents and external agencies is outstanding. There is a strong commitment to working cohesively to provide the very best care, experiences and opportunities for all children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities.
- The manager constantly tracks children's learning. This enables her to quickly and effectively identify any gaps in their learning to take immediate action.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build even further on the already excellent range of opportunities children have to develop their early literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children in play activities indoors and outdoors, looked at available resources and carried out two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager about leadership and management, safeguarding and how she evaluates practice.
- The inspector held a telephone call with the chairperson and held discussions with a committee member and parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's information, attendance records and developmental records, and talked to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the committee and staff, and checked staff qualifications.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The inspirational manager has worked hard to increase the support she provides to staff and has successfully improved the quality of teaching to a consistently outstanding level. For example, staff training in storytelling and developing mathematical skills has helped them to enrich the quality of their teaching. Additionally, she meets regularly with individual staff to review their practice and discuss areas for development. For instance, she has effectively helped staff to become more aware of their interactions to help children to express their ideas, make predications and reach conclusions. Staff's excellent teaching means children make exceptional progress. Safeguarding is effective. It is at the heart of everything staff do. If there are any concerns about children's welfare, management closely follows robust procedures to ensure they protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff offer children endless opportunities to expand their skills, imaginations and interests and are considering how to extend these further to help fully develop children's literacy skills. Staff accurately identify children's next steps in learning and use these, and children's interests, to plan enriching activities to support learning to the highest levels. For example, children enthusiastically explore a variety of fruit, herbs and tea bags from around the world to make 'potions' and 'baby food'. Staff make excellent use of all activities to increase children's vocabulary. For instance, they teach them many new words and signs to help all children communicate effectively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff place high importance on their role as key person to support children and their families. Parents are extremely complementary about the playgroup and the service it provides. For example, they say they appreciate the frequent, informal updates and very effective use of technology, which enable them to help extend their children's learning at home. Children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted time to play, explore and experiment, which ensures they remain engaged and focused on activities. Staff support children exceptionally well to develop an understanding of the importance of physical exercise and a healthy diet, and to manage their own hygiene and personal needs.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their lives and their eventual move to school. They are highly motivated and very eager to join in with activities. For example, children act out stories in detail from books they share with staff, and younger children engage fully in shape games, building their vocabulary and concentration levels. Children show excellent levels of communication and thinking. For example, they reflect well on their activities and suggest ways to change them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101701
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1126432
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Coalway Early Years Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519870
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2015
Telephone number	01594 839436

Coalway Early Years registered in 1997. It is based in Coalway, near Coleford, Gloucestershire and operates on the site of Coalway Community Infant School. It is a registered charity run by a management committee of parents. The playgroup opens five days a week during term time. Sessions run on Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs 13 members of staff who work directly with the children. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 5, one is qualified to level 4 and eight hold qualifications at level 3.

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