




Summary of key findings from inspection - May 2025


- ❖ The staff have reviewed recently the vision for Rainbow Stop Playgroup 'to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where young children can learn, grow, and explore through creative play' and have shared this with parents for consultation.
- ❖ The children in Rainbow Stop Playgroup are very happy in their learning and have good relationships with the staff who are very caring and highly committed to the playgroup.
- ❖ The children are confident in their interactions with the staff and visitors. They share their early representational mark-making and enjoy stories and using books to support their learning.
- ❖ The children are imaginative and enjoy dressing up, role playing in the dough and home corner making dough pizzas and tasting different foods. In the outdoors, they show a natural curiosity in searching for mini beasts, nurturing fledglings in their natural habitat, investigating how to balance scales with buckets of water and developing their core movements as they balance and walk across large tyres.
- ❖ All of the children demonstrate great enjoyment in their play. The structured learning environment and access to a range of authentic resources supports the majority of the children in sustained periods of collaborative play with each other and the adults. In the best practice, the interactions of the staff support and develop effectively the children's oracy and language skills, early mathematical language of capacity, measure and shape and develop the children's respect for the world around them.
- ❖ The staff have identified appropriate priorities for development. The staff will require further support with self-evaluation to monitor more effectively the impact of their actions on the children's learning and development.
- ❖ There are detailed long- and medium-term plans in place across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff have identified that the short-term planning needs to be reviewed further to ensure there is a focus on the children's skills and learning. There are regular observations, which the staff wish to build upon to inform more consistently the future planning.
- ❖ The small number of children who have been identified with special educational needs (SEN) have personal learning plans in place; these include appropriate strategies to support the children. These strategies should be implemented more consistently to enable the children to make steady progress.
- ❖ Regular informative newsletters are shared with parents with updates on the current themes in the playgroup. Following feedback from parental questionnaires, the staff arranged a well-attended Mother's Day event and plan to build upon these shared experiences and offer more opportunities for similar events in the future.
- ❖ At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the playgroup demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection do not align sufficiently to the current statutory guidance. The actions to take this work forward are for:
 - the necessary child protection training to be completed by a small number of staff, as set out in the DE statutory guidance; and
 - the updated Child Protection Policy to be shared with all relevant persons and for a small number of policies to be updated, such as Addressing Bullying, Special Educational Needs and Complaints Policies.
- ❖ A child protection progress inspection will take place within six working weeks.

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Areas for action:

-  to develop a more strategic and robust process of self-evaluation and action planning;
-  to establish robust processes for supporting and monitoring the progress of the children with SEN; and
-  to use more effectively the observations and assessments of the children's learning to inform the short-term planning to support the children's steady progression in learning across the pre-school curriculum.

Going forward

-  The children who attend Rainbow Stop Playgroup are very happy, enjoy their learning and are benefiting from nurturing relationships with the dedicated staff team. The inspection has highlighted a number of areas for action for the playgroup, which will benefit from access to sustained external support. There will be a progress inspection, including a six-week progress inspection for child protection.