

The Little Explorers Pre-School and The Little Explorers 2 Pre-School

Rustington Youth Centre and The John De Bohun Room, Rustington, Littlehampton,
West Sussex, BN16 3HB

Inspection date	22 January 2015
Previous inspection date	10 January 2012

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

- Children have access to a wide variety of exciting learning opportunities which help them make progress.
- Parents are highly involved in the planning process and are regularly asked to contribute with information on their children's interests and achievements at home.
- Children are prepared extremely well for the move to school through focused one-to-one sessions where they are able to learn key skills.
- There is a strong team ethic amongst staff and management who work closely as a unit to evaluate and improve practice.
- Children's strong knowledge of risks in the environment enable them to play and learn safely.
- The manager and staff's effective implementation of safeguarding procedures helps to ensure children are safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are some minor inconsistencies in the quality of teaching.
- Some aspects of the daily routine, such as snack time, are not used effectively to provide learning opportunities for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of everyday routines, such as snack time, to enhance learning and promote independence
- improve consistency in the quality of teaching by enabling staff to share their expertise with one another, especially with regard to extending children's thoughts and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the inside and outside play areas.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, the provider's self-evaluation form and their improvement plan. She also checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Kerry Lynn

Inspection findings

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

Children benefit from an effective planning system which focuses clearly on the individual child and enables activities to be centred on their interests. Parents contribute to planning and provide information to help staff meet children's learning needs. Staff's observations and records of children's development show that they are making good progress. Children display high levels of engagement as they choose from a wide variety of toys and activities. Staff extend activities to encourage development in many areas. For example, a well-organised role-play area enables children to act out household chores, write shopping lists and telephone notes, and engage in play together. Regular visits from community members, such as fire fighters, further enhance their learning experiences. Overall, staff use effective techniques to extend learning and encourage children to lead their play. For example, a staff member encourages a child to show her how to make pizza out of play dough, questioning them to draw out instructions and ideas. However, some staff members are more skilled at using these techniques than others. Children are prepared well for school as one-to-one 'Explorers' sessions enable them to develop counting, number recognition and early reading skills.

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

Staff safeguard children well. They are consistently strong in their knowledge of policies and procedures regarding children's safety. Children are very aware of risks in the environment; they know to wear helmets when using the bikes in the outdoor area. Children show regard to the 'Rules for fun' which staff reinforce daily. They freely play together as they take part in group games, such as pretending to be dogs and, even when they run around and have fun they are still able to behave well. Children feel safe and secure in the environment due to strong relationships with their keyworkers and other staff. Staff encourage children to be healthy by providing healthy snacks and reminding them to wash their hands. Children enjoy snack time but staff do not make good use of it to promote their learning or independence.

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

The manager has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She monitors planning and assessment to help ensure that children make good progress. The manager also works directly with the children, which helps her assess the progress of individuals and different groups. The manager supports staff well in their professional development. She uses appraisals to identify training needs. She provides individual training for those less confident with planning and, therefore, maintains high standards. The manager values staff's ideas for improvement and, therefore, they remain motivated. She also seeks parents' views. Staff build extremely strong partnerships with parents which benefit children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY366417
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	828993
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Philippa Myerscough
Date of previous inspection	10 January 2012
Telephone number	07774909369

The Little Explorers Pre-School and The Little Explorers 2 Pre-School opened in 2002 and re-registered in 2007. The pre-school operates from a large hall in the Youth Centre and pre-school 2 operates in the Woodlands Centre next door to the Youth Centre in Rustington, West Sussex. Both pre-schools share the enclosed area for outside play. The pre-schools open each weekday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The setting is open during term time only. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four. There are 12 members of staff; of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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