

Cuddles & Care Children's Day Nursery

Ministry House, Cathedral Park, Rowdens Road, Wells, BA5 1UA



Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

17 February 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Staff have a good knowledge of their key children. Accurate assessments of progress and effective partnerships with parents give them a clear picture of children's existing skills and interests. Staff plan exciting experiences to challenge children's development across all areas of learning, in particular, sensory opportunities and imaginative play.
- The key-person system effectively supports children's emotional well-being. Children are happy and confident in the well-organised, hygienic and safe learning environment. Staff support children through a smooth transition between the nursery rooms and on to school.
- Staff and management demonstrate a strong commitment to drive improvement through effective self-evaluation, such as developing the outside environment further. They seek feedback from parents and staff to identify areas to address. There is good support for staff professional development and training, for example role play, to develop children's imaginations.
- Staff support younger children well to manage their feelings and behaviour. As children begin to explore, they learn expectations, such as to share toys.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, small group times are long, and noise levels from other activities distract some children. Older children are not always encouraged to listen to others' news and take turns to prepare them for their move to school.
- Leaders and management do not always monitor and provide sufficient support to relief staff to ensure consistency with other staff in nappy changing procedures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support older children during small group time to listen and take turns in preparation for their move to school
- develop training and monitoring of relief staff further to promote a consistent approach to hygienic nappy training.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed all age groups playing inside and outdoors.
- The inspector and owner/manager completed a joint observation in the pre-school room.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, required documentation, self-evaluation, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector considered the written views of parents, as well as the views of those spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector spoke to the owner/manager, staff and children at convenient times during the inspection.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

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

Children are curious and motivated to learn. Staff provide exciting environments, which are well equipped with easily accessible toys and resources to encourage children's independent choices. A good balance of planned activities stimulate children's learning well. Younger children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the shaving foam to hunt for hidden insects. Effective staff interaction encouraged them to use their fingers and the insects to make marks, shapes and patterns in the foam. This supported the more reluctant children well to take part and develop early writing skills. Staff interact well in children's self-chosen activities. They questioned children effectively. This developed children's ideas and encouraged problem solving as they looked for bugs, played imaginatively in the mud kitchen and explored the soil and sand in the newly developed garden. Generally, staff support small group activities well. Older children thoroughly enjoyed a magic carpet ride, developing their imagination and communication and language skills well. They listened carefully to instructions, moving in different directions. On occasion, group times are too long and do not encourage children to listen and take turns, especially the older children.

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

Improved staff deployment means they use familiar daily routines effectively to maximise learning opportunities. A healthy fruit snack is now prepared before children arrive, freeing up staff during the day. Older children learn good independent skills, serving themselves with tongs and pouring their own drinks. This prepares them well for their next steps in learning. Younger children have good opportunities to develop friendships with older children as they prepare to move to the pre-school room. Children behave well. They understand expectations and boundaries. Staff provide clear explanations to make children aware of possible dangers, such as why rockers need to be moved away from the wall. Toddlers move confidently on the outdoor play equipment. They understand why it is important to wait for others to move away before they slide down, and to wait their turn.

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

There are good systems to support staff professional development through regular training, meetings, supervision and appraisals. Overall, there is a consistent approach to sharing good practice and implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. Suitably vetted and qualified staff help to maintain the high standards. However, relief staff are not always monitored sufficiently to ensure consistently high hygiene standards. Parents are actively involved in children's learning and receive a wealth of information from their children's key person. Staff have a good knowledge of their responsibility to report any concerns they have about a child in their care. They are vigilant and risk assess the environment regularly to safeguard children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467227
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	962967
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	S & D Childcare Limited
Date of previous inspection	17 February 2014
Telephone number	07702289294

Cuddles and Care Children's Day Nursery registered in 2013. It is one of two privately owned nurseries. It operates from single-storey premises situated on the outskirts of the city of Wells, Somerset. Children have use of two main playrooms, a sensory beach room, kitchen/dining room, and sleep room. There is a bathroom and nappy changing facilities. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register. It is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. It is in receipt of funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four-years. The owner/manager and deputy hold Early Years Professional Status. There are five members of staff; one holds a level 4 qualification, two have a level 3 and one a level 2 qualification. One member of staff is unqualified.

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