

Beacon Nursery

Pendragon House, Beacon Lane, Exeter, EX4 8LZ



Inspection date

19 February 2015

Previous inspection date

27 May 2009

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 understand the importance of healthy lifestyles. This is because staff regularly remind them to wash their hands to prevent the spread of germs and to drink to stay hydrated, for example.
- Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures to follow, should they have concerns relating to children's welfare.
- Partnerships with parents are developing well through daily conversations, communication books, regular newsletters and termly reports. This helps all adults to meet the care and development needs of children.
- Children learn about the world around them through a good variety of planned activities; they explore the natural environment at the local park and become fascinated by objects from different cultures.
- Staff use an effective range of strategies to teach all children communication and language skills, including those who speak English as an additional language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently encourage children to participate in small tasks during snack and meal times, to support them to become independent in preparation for school.
- Short group times are not always well organised to help extend children's understanding. This is because staff do not fully consider children's ages and individual stages of development, which means they lose focus.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities for children to develop independence through undertaking self-care tasks, for example during snack and meal times
- review the organisation and effectiveness of some group activities, to ensure the content is relevant for the size, interests and development stages of all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with staff how they deliver the educational programmes for all children, and how they ensure all relevant adults have an understanding of children's current stages of learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, records and policies, and discussed the setting's procedures for keeping children safe.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and deputy manager, for example about the organisation of group times and areas for development.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan a stimulating range of activities that cover all areas of learning. The sensory room resources effectively capture the attention of babies and young children explore different ways to move to music. Opportunities to handle Chinese objects and look at books that celebrate special events fully immerse older children when learning about different cultures. This supports them to develop a positive attitude to learning, and prepares them well for the next stage in their learning. However, staff do not consistently organise short group activities well during circle time, to meet the ages and stages of development of all children. For example, staff led a sing and sign session with the oldest children but did not plan a more relevant activity for the babies. Staff observe children's achievements and regularly summarise their findings to monitor children's development. Consequently, all children make good progress in their learning. Staff establish secure relationships with parents and other early years settings that children attend. This means that all adults who form key relationships with children are able to provide complementary learning.

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

Staff develop warm relationships with children and provide opportunities for all children to become familiar with the staff team, such as when bringing key groups together for planned activities. Additionally, they monitor children's personal, social and emotional well-being to make sure that children feel valued and special. This all means that children quickly develop confidence at the setting. Generally, staff encourage children to undertake small self-care tasks during the nursery day. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to develop independence during snack and meal times. Staff promote children's safety well. Secure doors within the nursery prevent unknown adults from entering the setting without the knowledge of staff. Children regularly practise fire drills to help them learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

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

The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements. Effective systems for monitoring planning and assessment result in good care and learning opportunities. Staff receive regular supervision meetings to discuss the needs of their key children, and identify additional training to enhance their own professional development. For instance, they now implement specific strategies to increase the emotional well-being of older children. The manager has a good understanding of the nursery's strengths and areas for development, and identifies appropriate ways to address these. For instance, she plans to enhance the mathematics programme through targeted activities, to extend children's knowledge and understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361507
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	828817
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	103
Name of provider	Action For Children Committee
Date of previous inspection	27 May 2009
Telephone number	0139 2427 063

Beacon Nursery is part of the Beacon Heath Children's Centre, which registered in 2007. It is situated in the Beacon Heath area of Exeter and is managed by Action For Children. There are 14 members of staff who work within the nursery, 13 of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications, including three Early Years Professionals. The nursery offers early years funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It opens for 51 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday, from 7.45am to 5.45pm.

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