

The Town Nursery

24 London Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 5AX



Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

4 July 2011

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

- Staff monitor and support children's learning and development very well. As a result, children make good progress in their learning given their starting points.
- Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment. This helps children to settle in quickly and feel secure.
- Staff provide regular access to the outdoor area so that children can get plenty of fresh air and exercise. This helps to promote their healthy lifestyles.
- The management team and staff have built strong partnerships with parents and other professionals. This helps them to identify and support any gaps in learning quickly.
- The management team completes effective self-evaluation processes that include the views of children, parents and staff to ensure continual improvement is strongly driven.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff ask children to queue for long periods, which means that they have to wait for activities and sometimes lose interest.
- Staff do not always provide resources to promote literacy development in the garden. For example, children do not always have access to pictures with print or writing tools to make marks with outside.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of daily routines and group sizes to ensure that children do not wait for long periods of time or lose interest in activities
- enhance the outdoor area to include even more literacy resources such as pictures with print or tools to practise early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussion with the children, staff and manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, suitability records, policies and procedures, and learning and development.

Inspector

Helen Porter

Inspection findings

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

Staff use strong observations and assessments to monitor children's learning. They provide parents with regular updates on children's progress. They successfully gather comments and suggestions from parents about children's achievements at home. This helps them to provide continuity in their learning. Staff plan exciting activities that extend children's learning in all areas. However, staff do not always maximise children's literacy skills outside. Staff help to develop children's communication skills and language as they use sign language during daily routines, such as singing times. This helps children of all ages to learn hand signals to help them to communicate with each other. Staff provide low-level baskets of resources for all age groups. This promotes their choice of play very well.

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

The key person system is strong. Staff know their key children's needs very well. Staff share lots of information as a team, which helps them continue to support children even when the key person is not present. Staff constantly remind children to share, which helps them learn to behave well. They follow consistent routines, which the children are aware of. However, at times, children are left waiting for their turn in activities, such as obstacle courses. This, on occasion, causes them to lose interest and disengage in the play. Staff encourage children to learn about safety. For example, they remind them to stop, look and listen before crossing the car park to the garden. They help to keep children safe by carrying out daily risk assessments to minimise any identified hazards. Staff provide healthy meals and snacks for the children. During meals, they teach children about the healthy foods they eat and what effects they have on the body. Staff have made good links with other local settings, such as schools. They invite professionals, such as reception teachers to the nursery or visit them at the schools. This provides them with good opportunities to share information about children's progress before their move to school.

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

The management team monitors the educational programme very well, which helps to ensure that gaps in learning are identified and are closing quickly. The team has a good awareness of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Staff are aware of signs of abuse and neglect and what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. The recruitment, supervision and induction procedures are robust. This helps to ensure that staff are suitable to work with the children. The management team uses self-evaluation effectively to identify their strengths and areas to improve. Staff are encouraged to continue their professional development and implement their new knowledge in their practice to improve outcomes for all.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133466
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	836372
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	112
Name of provider	The Town Nursery Partnership
Date of previous inspection	4 July 2011
Telephone number	01608 645646

The Town Nursery opened in 1986 and operates from the old convent next to the Catholic primary school near the town centre of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. They are open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. There are 20 members of staff, including the two managers. Of these, 19 hold appropriate early years qualifications, including two with Early Years Professional Status and one with Qualified Teacher Status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

