

The Barn Day Nursery

St. Ives School, Higher Tregenna Road, St. Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2BB



Inspection date

9 March 2015

Previous inspection date

4 March 2010

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

- The strong key person system enables children to grow in confidence, which results in them happily exploring their environment and participating in activities.
- Staff work effectively together to provide activities that promote each child's learning and ensure that they all make good progress.
- Staff skilfully gain children's attention because they engage them in well-planned activities.
- Effective communication with parents supports and encourages their involvement in their children's learning at home and provides continuity of care.
- Regular trips to beaches and woods, along with daily access to fresh air and outdoor activities, support children's health.
- The opportunity to participate in swimming, sports and violin lessons provides children with an interesting variety of experiences to enhance their learning.
- The management team uses self-reflection effectively to make secure changes to practice that benefit children, for example, re-organising rooms to better promote two-year-olds' independence. They identify staff training and ensure that it benefits children's learning, for example, using a visual time clock for two-year-olds.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not plan successfully for snack times, meaning some learning activities are disrupted as staff get the children ready. Also, they do not give children the opportunity to help prepare for snack time and develop new skills, such as pouring their drinks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of daily routines, so they do not interrupt children's enjoyment of other learning activities, and allow children to play a role in preparing and managing snack time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation alongside the manager.
- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outdoor play areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector checked documents relating to the suitability and qualifications of staff and regarding planning and children's progress.

Inspector

Lynne Bowden

Inspection findings

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

Key persons establish children's starting points using information from parents and their own observations. This helps them to identify children's next steps and provide activities that promote progress across all areas of learning. However, routine activities can sometimes interrupt children's learning experiences. An example occurs when preparing for snack time. There is interruption to story time when children have to go to wash their hands, meaning they are unable to hear the entire story. Overall, mealtimes are sociable experiences. Toddlers grow familiar with their written names as they see their labels on their water bottles. Staff encourage children to talk about their experiences and teach them about healthy foods. However, they do not encourage children to pour out drinks or prepare the fruit and vegetables. Staff encourage older children to write their names, giving some name cards to copy, while others enjoy writing independently. Staff support babies in their growing independence, giving them time and encouragement as they persist at trying to put clothes on. Children's growing skills in all areas of learning equip them well for their future learning. Effective partnerships with local schools help prepare older children for starting school.

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

Key persons are responsive to their children's needs and develop strong bonds with them. These relationships give children the security and self-assurance they need to move on through the nursery and later into school. Children confidently access and explore the range of resources available. Children of all ages benefit from outdoor play every day. Staff remind children of how to keep themselves safe and to follow good hygiene practices. Children's use of resources which reflect our diverse society help them learn to respect and value different lifestyles and cultures. The use of visual timetables and symbols, in response to recent training, supports children's awareness of routines well.

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

Regular risk assessments help to ensure children's safety. The safeguarding officer/manager delivers safeguarding training in-house. She effectively reinforces staff knowledge of child protection issues, and staff skills and knowledge during staff meetings and supervision. This results in all being aware of their responsibilities. The managers use records of children's progress to monitor the balance and effectiveness of the educational programme. This enables them to identify and address any areas of weakness. This results in all children receiving good-quality care and learning opportunities, and making good progress across all areas of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY273184
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	833402
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	85
Name of provider	The Barn Neighbourhood Nursery Partnership
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2010
Telephone number	01736 793150 or 797443

The Barn Day Nursery opened on this site in St Ives, Cornwall in 2004. It is privately owned by a partnership. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year round. They receive education funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds. Of the 15 members of staff, all but three hold early years qualifications to National Vocational Qualification at level 2 and above. These include one member of staff who has Early Years Professional Status. Another has a BA in Early Childhood Studies and two members of staff have a Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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