

Toybox Nursery

8 Linden Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2BH



Inspection date	11 March 2015
Previous inspection date	12 April 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

- Children are safe and happy in a friendly environment, where they learn through play and exploration.
- Staff use an effective system to monitor children's learning. They identify and address any gaps, which enables them to support all children to make good progress.
- Staff take children on outings in the local area to enhance their learning through meaningful experiences. These activities help them develop good skills for the future.
- Staff work well as a team. They are consistent in using effective strategies to help children manage their emotions and behaviour.
- Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They have freshly cooked food at mealtimes and have frequent opportunities for fresh air and exercise.
- Positive partnerships with parents and connected professionals enable staff to meet individual needs well. Children with specific needs are well supported.
- Management and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff interaction sometimes lacks effective questioning to help children think, recall and solve problems.
- There is no comfortable area for children to relax to encourage their spontaneous use of books.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen questioning techniques to encourage children's thinking further
- improve the book areas to make them inviting for children to look at books independently or with others.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in both playrooms and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector interviewed the manager and provider, and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation that included children's progress records, accident/injury records, complaints records and the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector talked with parents and took their views into account.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They plan a balance of activities according to children's interests and learning needs. Children are able to choose to play inside or outside at times during the day according to their preferences. For example, a child finds a woodlouse in the sand, which leads to several children excitedly hunting for more insects. They look at posters to help identify bugs, and count and record what they have found. This effectively promotes their literacy and mathematical skills. Staff promote children's language skills well from a young age. They talk with them, naming objects, people, actions and concepts. However, sometimes staff ask questions that require one word answers rather than encouraging children to extend their thinking. Children enjoy listening to stories and staff maintain their interest and involvement by using props such as a story board. There is a range of books for children to choose. However, there is no comfortable area to sit to encourage them to enjoy books independently or with friends.

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

The key person system works well. The small staff team communicates effectively so that all members know and support each of the children's learning and welfare needs effectively. Children are happy and settled; staff respect babies' home routines to help them feel secure. Staff provide familiar routines and clear explanations to help children know what is expected and behave well. Staff praise and encourage children regularly, which boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Children develop increasing independence in self-care skills, such as personal hygiene routines and managing their clothing. These are important skills children need for starting school.

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

Management and staff have a good understanding of safeguarding children. They complete all the required records to promote children's welfare. Clear staff recruitment and induction procedures help to ensure that staff know their responsibilities. Most staff are trained in first aid, and they risk assess effectively to help keep children safe. Staff communicate well with parents and involve them in their child's learning. Parents say that their children settle well and are making good progress. They say staff are approachable if they have any concerns. Staff work well with other professionals and external agencies to provide the extra support for children who need it. Management and staff reflect on their practice regularly to identify areas for development. Staff attend training to update their knowledge and improve children's experiences. For example, they have developed the garden to promote more areas of learning for those who learn better outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142865
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1007777
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	The Toybox (Yeovil) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	12 April 2011
Telephone number	01935 428244

Toy Box Day Nursery was registered in 1991 and is privately owned. It operates from a converted house in Yeovil, Somerset. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year, except for approximately two weeks over the Christmas period. The owner, who holds a qualification at level 3, employs six members of staff. The manager is qualified at level 4. One member of staff holds a qualification at level 5, and two are at level 3. Two members of staff are studying towards early years qualifications. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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