

Scribblez Day Nursery

10 Grace Road, Marsh Barton, Exeter, EX2 8PU



Inspection date

12 March 2015

Previous inspection date

2 May 2012

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 fully understand the safeguarding procedures to follow if they have a concern relating to children's welfare.
- The manager strives for improvement and identifies key areas to develop, for example, information evenings with parents. This is to enhance parents' knowledge of the nursery's learning philosophy and show them how they can provide support at home, to extend their children's development. This shows how effective self-evaluation is helping to improve outcomes for children.
- Staff regularly monitor children's learning and plan a range of activities to meet their individual needs and interests. As a result, all children make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff promote positive behaviour well, helping children to understand the boundaries and expectations. This supports their personal, social and emotional development.
- Staff consistently and effectively promote children's health. Children wash their hands before eating, benefit from physical activity when using the indoor play fort, and enjoy nutritional, home-cooked snacks and meals.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff provide fewer opportunities for all children to undertake small self-care tasks during mealtimes.
- Staff do not make a wider range of resources available outdoors, to encourage children to explore nature, be creative, imaginative and use their senses more in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide opportunities for all children to participate in small self-care tasks during mealtimes, to further their independence
- enhance children's learning experiences outdoors, to ensure that resources cover all areas of development, with particular regard to their exploration of the natural world, and their creativity, imaginative and sensory play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector undertook observations of children, both inside and out, during self-chosen and planned activities.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children, and held discussions with the manager and provider.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's learning records, staff qualifications and policies.
- The inspector and manager completed a joint observation together.

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 good range of activities that interest and stimulate all children throughout the nursery. Pre-school age children eagerly take part in planned activities that involve music and movement, where staff support their physical skills particularly well, offering challenge for them to stretch and balance. Babies become physically active, and crawl and explore different spaces, using ramps that provide further challenge. Children choose from a good range of indoor resources to support their preferences and make decisions in their play. However, staff do not consistently offer a broad range of resources outdoors to engage children's learning across all areas. Staff promote younger children's early language well. They teach them new words so that they can make associations to familiar experiences. For example, when they play with dry cereal, staff tell them it is like 'breakfast', and children try to copy the word. Staff support older children's imaginary play well, for example, when playing with dry lentils, where children use a range of containers and toys to move, scoop and pour. Staff work well with external agencies to consistently meet children's individual needs. Good partnerships with parents, and other settings that children attend, enable complementary learning across different environments, including at home.

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

Staff establish warm and caring relationships with children, which helps them to settle in quickly and learn good social skills as they make friends. For instance, young children spontaneously cuddle others. Staff routinely praise children's efforts and achievements, and pay close attention when children initiate discussion. This effectively develops children's communication skills, builds their self-esteem and makes them feel valued, which prepares them well for their move to school. Staff do not always encourage children of all ages to undertake tasks during mealtimes so that they learn to pour their own drinks and serve themselves, for example, to extend their independence.

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

The manager regularly reviews risk assessments to monitor the safety of the premises. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure the suitability of all staff. Staff routinely count children when moving between the building and outdoors to account for them all. These measures effectively promote children's welfare. The manager provides ongoing support to staff to help them ensure all children make progress. Regular supervision meetings and observations of staff practice help to enhance the quality of teaching. For example, as a result of training, staff have reviewed their practices for two-year-old children, such as sleep routines and giving them more time to respond, to promote their well-being and communication and language.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY427734
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	823344
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	90
Number of children on roll	136
Name of provider	Sam James Norton
Date of previous inspection	2 May 2012
Telephone number	01392 278 674

Scribblez Day Nursery is a privately owned nursery which registered in 2011. It operates from a converted building on the edge of Marsh Barton Industrial Estate, Exeter. Children have access to enclosed outdoor areas. The nursery opens each weekday from 7.45am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. It offers funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery follows a Montessori approach. It employs 32 staff, including a handyman and three cooks; 20 staff work directly with the children. The manager holds a level 7 qualification in childcare and is a qualified Montessori teacher. Four members of staff hold level 4 qualifications, 11 hold level 3 and five hold a level 2. qualification. The nursery has links with other local early years settings and schools.

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