

# Rocking Horse Nursery

The Old Brewery House, Bath Road, Shaw, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8EF



## Inspection date

19 March 2015

## Previous inspection date

23 May 2014

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Leadership and management of the nursery are strong and staff receive good support for their professional development.
- Staff provide a welcoming environment where children can easily choose what they play with.
- Staff organise a variety of useful experiences for children, so they make good progress in their learning.
- Staff understand the children's needs well. They assess children's skills accurately, putting additional support in place if needed. This attention means all children progress well given their abilities on entry.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. Staff work with parents and other professionals to support children's needs.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes step in too quickly to assist children and do not give them time to act for themselves.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to promote children's creativity.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children more opportunities to develop independence by allowing them time and encouragement to do more things for themselves
- develop further the provision to support children's skills in expressive arts and design, for example through experiencing a wide range of music, dance and paintings.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities and the quality of teaching, inside and out, and looked at the range of resources.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times and held meetings with the owner and manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working with the children.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day and from recent written feedback.

## Inspector

Karen Prager

## Inspection findings

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

Staff effectively use their good knowledge and understanding of how children learn and develop. They engage children in learning that interests them, although opportunities for children to develop skills in art and imagination are less extensive than other areas of learning. Staff assess children's development and share what the children are learning next with their colleagues. They teach children successfully through practical play experiences. For example, children learn about nature through watering plants and picking fruit for their lunch. Babies explore the feel of shells in their treasure basket. Staff incorporate number throughout the day. Children count how many children there are and calculate how many more cups are needed at lunchtime. Staff speak clearly, which provides a good role model for children's developing speech. Staff show children that what they say matters, listening to them carefully. They ask questions to support children's thinking. The good all-round teaching gives children secure foundations for their future learning.

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

Staff are caring and sensitive to children's needs. This helps children settle well and promotes their emotional well-being. The nursery has a good range of resources to support children's learning. Children develop their personal skills well. For example, they help to tidy away the toys and change their shoes when they go outside. However, sometimes staff step in too quickly when children ask for help, rather than encouraging them to try for themselves. This does not fully support children's independence. Children learn about healthy eating, enjoying the nutritious meals cooked on the premises. They follow routines and willingly respond to requests to wash their hands before they eat. Children benefit from fresh air during daily outdoor play and learn to keep themselves safe. For example, they balance carefully on a plank and learn to keep the tail of a stick on the ground so other children are not poked.

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

The provider has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. Staff take effective steps to reduce risks to children. They understand the safeguarding policy and they know the steps to follow should they have a concern about a child. The staff team has taken effective steps to evaluate the provision and secure improvement. Staff have attended training, which means the quality of provision has improved. The manager works with staff and improves their skills by modelling effective practice. She checks children's progress through regular reviews of their development records. Staff have useful links with other local providers and professionals, and effectively share their knowledge to develop the quality of provision.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY104146
<b>Local authority</b>	Wiltshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	978255
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	39
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	67
<b>Name of provider</b>	Fiona Mhairi Milner
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	23 May 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01225 700894

Rocking Horse Nursery registered in 2002. It is situated in the village of Shaw, on the outskirts of the town of Melksham in Wiltshire. It opens from 8am until 6pm, all year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. It employs 13 staff who work directly with the children. One member of staff holds Early Years Professional Status and 10 hold relevant qualifications from level 3 to level 5. There is also a chef and a cleaner. Eleven of the staff members hold an early years qualification.

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