Brown Bears Community Nursery



St Martins Primary School, Shady Bower, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2RG

Inspection date	24 March 2015
Previous inspection date	6 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision mee range of children who attend	ts the needs of the	Good	2
The contribution of the early years provof children	vision to the well-being	Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and early years provision	management of the	Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff work closely with parents to involve them fully in the nursery and in their children's education. Parents know what their children are learning and really value the support that staff give them to help their children learn and develop at home.
- Staff work in close liaison with the school to maximise learning opportunities for the children and to ensure a smooth move on to the next stage in their learning. For example, children benefit from using the school's extensive outdoor play areas.
- Staff work in close partnership with the local children's centre to support children and their families. They signpost parents to the centre's services and take the children there to use the sensory room. Centre staff also visit the nursery to support children's learning.
- Children are independent and active learners. Staff give them freedom to fully develop their ideas and children confidently and proudly explain what they are doing.
- Children are confident speakers. They chat to staff and to other children throughout the day and are good at expressing themselves. Staff use effective strategies to help children with communication difficulties, such as using picture cards which include familiar images from home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

■ The recently established unit for two-year-olds is still under development. The learning environment for younger children is not yet as stimulating as that for older children. Staff are still developing their practice to bring about the best possible outcomes for young children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

enhance the learning environment and provision for younger children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and staff.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including the safeguarding policy and children's records of progress.

Inspector

Catherine Sample

Inspection findings

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

Staff use effective teaching methods and are skilled at recognising and taking advantage of learning opportunities. For example, when a child brings in a paper aeroplane staff enable other children to make their own. Children fold the paper and decorate or write their names on the planes, developing their physical and literacy skills. They proudly show them off, explaining how they made them, and then take them outside to see how far they will fly. Staff interact very well with children, talking to them about what they are doing and offering plenty of praise and acknowledgement. Staff know all children very well and make careful assessments of their progress, which they use to help them plan for their individual learning needs. The manager carefully monitors the progress of individuals and different groups of children to ensure that staff can promptly tackle any gaps in learning. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.

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

Parents and children build strong relationships with a familiar member of staff. This helps parents to share information and children to feel secure. Children generally behave well because staff discuss the golden rules with them and quickly help them to settle any issues about sharing. They also help parents to use effective behaviour management techniques at home. Children benefit from good opportunities to get outdoors and exercise in the fresh air. At the inspection they ran freely in the spacious outdoor areas and worked out how to clamber down a steep bank safely. They learn about healthy lifestyles as they find out what food is good for them and talk about why they need to wash their hands. The nursery has good links with the local community and children also learn about the wider world by using toys and books that show positive images of diversity.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They protect children by ensuring that the environment is fully secure and safe and all know what to do if they have concerns about a child. The manager and the chair of the committee carry out regular supervision and appraisal meetings for staff to help identify any practice issues and training needs. Staff attended training on working with two-year-olds as part of a local project. They are beginning to implement what they learnt. In addition, the nursery has received good support from the local authority in setting up the unit for two-year-olds which started operating at the end of last year. This has had a noticeable impact on the progress of the younger children. All those involved in the nursery contribute towards setting clear targets for development through a national quality assurance scheme and a robust self-evaluation process.

Setting details

Unique reference number EY280956

Local authority Wiltshire

Inspection number 837445

Type of provision Full-time provision

Registration categoryChildcare - Non-Domestic

Age range of children 2 - 5

Total number of places 40

Number of children on roll 48

Name of provider

Brown Bears Community Playgroup Committee

Date of previous inspection 6 July 2010

Telephone number 01722 554306

Brown Bears Community Nursery opened in 1976. It is situated at St Martins' Primary School in Salisbury, Wiltshire. The nursery is open each weekday during term time between 8am and 5pm. The nursery offers funded education sessions to children aged two, three and four. The nursery employs eight staff. The play leader has a Foundation Degree and all other staff have relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or 3 or are working towards them.

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.

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