

Westbank LOFAS

Westbank, Farmhouse Rise, Exminster, EX6 8AT



Inspection date

8 April 2015

Previous inspection date

19 January 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not always obtain parents' written consent to administer medication as required. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register.
- At times, staff do not provide children with resources to support their physical play indoors. This means they miss opportunities to engage children in sports and games that develop team working and to teach children about the benefits of exercise.
- Staff do not always set up the indoors play spaces well. Consequently, children do not make the most of each area or explore the resources they contain.
- Self-evaluation systems do not fully take account of the views of parents, children and staff, to identify further areas for development.

It has the following strengths

- Staff form positive relationships with children and treat them with care and respect. This helps children to feel secure and builds their confidence to make friends with others.
- Staff promote positive behaviour well, consistently using a range of suitable strategies. This helps children learn about expectations and boundaries so they behave appropriately.
- Staff have a good understanding of relevant safeguarding procedures, including how to refer concerns relating to children's welfare.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- obtain prior written consent from parents to administer every medication and course of treatment that children require.

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

- provide more opportunities for children to engage in indoor physical play and sports, to support their growing friendships through team games and promote their health
- develop the organisation of resources and furniture in the indoor play spaces to encourage children's exploration of all resources in different areas of the room, to help them form preferences in their play
- develop self-evaluation systems to regularly take into account the views and suggestions of parents, children and staff, to address all areas for improvement.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- obtain a written record of parents' consent to administer every particular medication (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- obtain a written record of parents' consent to administer every particular medication (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed adult-led activities, children's self-chosen play indoors and looked at how they use the environment.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, which included self-evaluation processes, planning of activities and links with other settings that children attend.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's learning records, evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and records linked to the administration of medication.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff plan activities based on children's interests and current themes at other settings the children attend. Staff regularly gather information from parents to identify children's changing likes and interests as they grow. These measures help children develop a positive attitude to learning and extends their learning well. Staff use a variety of positive techniques to support children's communication and language. For example, they routinely ask children questions that start with 'why' and 'how', to develop their ideas, and children respond confidently. Staff are sensitive to children's comments and encourage them to persevere in activities, such as providing hints to help them complete a puzzle. Partnership working with other professionals enables staff to work together to provide individual support to children, to help all children make good progress in their learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Children participate in small self-care tasks, such as spreading toppings on toast during snack time. This develops their independence and physical skills. Although resources are stored at low-level for children to make choices in their play, the organisation of indoors play areas does not always encourage children's exploration. For example, large parts of the room are often unused as they offer few resources and little furniture to capture children's interests. Additionally, staff do not always set up physical play indoors using a range of relevant resources, so children can learn through regular team games or have more opportunities to exercise indoors. Staff do not obtain parents' written consent to administer every medication they give to children, although they share records with parents once the medicine has been administered.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager implements suitable safeguarding measures, such as regularly reviewing risk assessments and children's accidents, to keep children safe. However, he does not ensure staff follow appropriate procedures for administering medication. Staff recruitment and induction processes are robust to ensure the suitability of all staff. Ongoing supervision meetings support staff's professional development, including identifying training needs, for example, to improve their understanding of managing children's behaviour. Self-evaluation is not fully effective to take into account the views of parents and staff to identify and address all areas for development. For instance, when asked at inspection, parents commented that staff could provide more resources to support physical play. However, parents state that they are happy with the setting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364789
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	835526
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Westbank Community Health and Care
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2012
Telephone number	01392 824 752

Westbank LOFAS club opened in 2004 and re-registered in 2007. It operates from a large community hall in the Westbank Healthy Living Centre in Exminster. There is an enclosed outside play area. The club has use of the adjacent playing field. Westbank LOFAS Club opens each weekday during school term times from 3.30pm to 6pm. The club opens each weekday during school holiday periods, half terms, and in-service days from 8am to 6pm. There are ten members of staff employed to work with the children; of these, five have early years qualifications to either level 2 or level 3. The setting has links with a local school and pre-school.

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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