

Little Dragons Pre-School

Lady Seawards C of E Primary School, Clyst St. George, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0RE



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

14 June 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		Outstanding	1
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 have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They plan activities that meet children's interests and needs and, as a result, children are motivated and excited to learn.
- Children make good progress. Staff observe and assess children's learning regularly in order to understand their current stage of development. This enables them to plan activities that challenge and extend learning even further.
- Staff treat children with a great deal of respect and this results in a harmonious, caring environment, where every child is valued and every family welcomed. Children flourish because staff meet their individual needs so effectively.
- The manager and her staff have a robust understanding of safeguarding procedures. This enables them to act promptly and effectively, should they have a concern about a child.
- Staff prepare children well for their next stages in learning. They effectively promote children's move on to school in consultation with parents and Reception teachers at local schools.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff keep parents well informed about their children's learning, and encourage them to share and support continued learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, children become distracted and disruptive at group times, which disturbs the learning of their peers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the length of group-time activities so that all children stay engaged and focused in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, the manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled documentation including policies, children's learning records and qualification certificates.
- The inspector reviewed the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views of the pre-school.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy their time at the pre-school, where the quality of teaching is consistently good. Staff are well qualified and use their knowledge effectively to promote young children's learning. Communication is a strong aspect, with all staff regularly talking with children, making good use of questioning. As a result, children are confident with their communication skills, which enhances their play. For example, children make up their own games and role play going into space in their tent in the garden. Staff support children to develop number skills. Children confidently predict how many children are present, count accurately and write numerals on the white board at group times. However, group times can be too long and some children become distracted and lose interest, which impacts on those that are still taking part. Children share toys well and understand that they need to wait their turn, independently using timers as additional support.

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

Staff are highly skilled and sensitive to the needs of each child. Children are confident, motivated and show a willingness to explore. Staff work extremely closely with parents to support each child, ensuring that children are emotionally secure. Children settle through individually tailored support because staff work closely with parents to ensure settling-in arrangements successfully meet children's emotional and physical well-being. Children also help with this process by being a 'buddy' to newcomers. Staff provide a stimulating environment inside and outdoors. Outdoors, children show an excellent understanding of safety as they jump and balance between tyres. Children benefit from the pre-school's extremely close relationships with the host school, enabling them to take part in joint play times and activity sessions confidently, to prepare them for their move to school.

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

The manager maintains a good overview of the educational programmes, working alongside staff to reflect on the provision. This ensures activities take account of children's interests and stages of development. The chair of the committee supports the manager well and together they run the provision successfully. They support staff positively to enhance their teaching through regular training and effective supervision arrangements. Successful systems help to gather the views of parents. Parents and carers speak extremely highly of the pre-school and their commitment to providing a good quality learning experience for children. Management use information well to develop focused self-evaluation, which has a positive impact on the provision and supports children's achievements further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY301081
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	834048
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Little Dragons (Clyst St George) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	14 June 2011
Telephone number	01392257001

Little Dragons Pre-school registered in 1998. It operates from Lady Seawards Church of England Primary School in the village of Clyst St. George, near Exeter, Devon. It is open each weekday during term time from 8.45am to 3.15pm. There are four members of staff, three of whom hold early years qualifications to at least Level 3. The manager has a foundation degree. The pre-school provides funded nursery education for children aged two, three and four-years-old.

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