

Dunsford Pre-School Playgroup

Dunsford Community Primary School, Dunsford, EXETER, EX6 7DD



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

26 March 2015

19 November 2009

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

- Children form strong relationships with staff, which help them to feel safe and secure.
- Staff provide an interesting range of resources and activities to motivate and engage children. Consequently, children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff successfully promote positive behaviour, helping children to learn the potential consequences of their actions. As a result, children behave well.
- Children regularly undertake self-care tasks that help them to become independent learners. This supports their personal development well.
- Staff prioritise safeguarding procedures. They have a robust understanding of how to refer concerns regarding children's welfare.
- Children are becoming confident communicators due to the positive range of teaching strategies that staff implement, such as routinely using questioning to challenge children's thinking and language skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although assessment of children monitors their current stage of development effectively, it does not provide a clear picture of how well individuals and groups of children make progress over time.
- There are not always natural resources available to enable children to explore and investigate.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the tracking of all children's development, including groups of children, so that staff have a clearer picture of their progress over time
- develop the range of natural resources available for children to investigate and explore during their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and in the outside play area.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff about their practice at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with parents and grandparents to take account of their feedback.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including policies and procedures, and assessment records for children.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

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

Children are keen to learn because staff provide them with resources and activities that they are interested in. For example, they worked well together to build a rocket from wooden blocks. Staff introduce numbers and shapes to support children's mathematical skills. Children are developing confidence in their writing skills and enthusiastically have a go at signing themselves in each day. As a result, many children are able to recognise and write some letters within their names and proudly show their attempts at copying them. This helps children to develop a positive attitude to learning, in preparation for their move to school. Staff do not always provide natural resources to extend children's curiosity and exploration. There are good partnerships with parents and other settings children attend. They regularly share information regarding children's learning in different environments, which helps staff to build a more accurate picture of what children are able to do.

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

The key-person system is highly effective in promoting children's personal, social and emotional development. Staff form excellent relationships with children to make them feel valued, and model respectful relationships with each other. As a result, children develop strong friendships and volunteer to play games with those who are on their own. Staff give frequent praise to children and pay attention to their thoughts and comments. This helps children to feel secure and builds their self-esteem. Staff carefully plan to ease children's transitions to school. For example, older children regularly spend time with the on-site reception class. Staff promote children's health and safety very well. They provide nutritional snacks and daily opportunities to play outdoors, and regularly practise fire drills together.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff have improved their assessment arrangements to focus more on children's next steps, to identify how they can help them make further progress. However, processes do not closely track the progress that all children make over time, or identify any patterns in their learning. Effective supervision meetings enable the manager to support staff development. For example, they have recently completed a course that has given them new ideas on strategies to help children to settle. This means that staff regularly update routines and procedures in line with children's needs. The manager reviews the action plan as part of continuous self-evaluation, which shows a commitment to drive improvement. Parents' views are taken into account through questionnaires, to enable staff to ensure that they are meeting the needs of children and parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY391200
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	830320
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	Dunsford Pre-school Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	19 November 2009
Telephone number	01647252303

Dunsford Pre-School Playgroup operates from self-contained premises within Dunsford Primary School, set on the edge of Dartmoor, in Devon. It registered at its current location in 2009. The pre-school has links with the school. It is a registered charity, run by a voluntary committee. The setting is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.15am to 12.15pm, and on Thursdays from 9.15am to 3.15pm, during term time only. Early years funding is available for children aged three and four years. There are three members of staff who have early years qualifications, including the lunchtime supervisor.

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