

Tadpole Pre School

Combe St. Nicholas School, Combe St. Nicholas, CHARD, Somerset, TA20 3NG



Inspection date

23 April 2015

Previous inspection date

2 June 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		Good	2
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 provide a welcoming and stimulating learning environment where children are keen to join in a broad range of activities.
- Parents are well informed about their child's care and learning. They are encouraged to contribute their views about their child's abilities, interests and achievements and are involved in completing the progress check at age two years.
- The supervisor demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement in order to enhance the quality of the play, care and learning experiences for all children.
- Staff make children's safety and welfare a high priority. They have a good understanding of safeguarding issues and the procedures to follow to help protect children from harm.
- Robust recruitment and vetting procedures help to ensure suitable adults care for children.
- There are strong links with the school which means children move on to school with confidence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always promote children's independence fully, particularly at snack time.
- Staff offer a limited range of resources and images to support children's understanding about the diversity of society.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities for children to develop their independence during everyday routines and activities
- extend the use of resources and positive images of diversity to enhance children's understanding of different people and communities, and the wider world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the supervisor.
- The inspector looked at the children's assessment records and staff planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Petra Morgan

Inspection findings

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

Staff are good teachers. Children learn how to express what they think through conversations, and they develop a wide range of vocabulary. For example, children confidently talked about sea creatures during an activity and staff introduced unfamiliar words such as 'hammerhead shark'. Staff are skilled story tellers using props to involve the children. This helps all children engage in stories well. Staff support children effectively to gain an understanding of the natural world as they take part in nature projects. For example, they learnt about growing when they observed ducklings hatch from eggs. However, there are only a few resources to develop children's understanding of the wider society. Staff assess children's progress effectively and use this information to identify their next steps for learning. This enables all children to make good progress from their starting points when they first attend and develop the skills they need for their move on to school.

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

Staff take time to get to know parents and children's individual interests. This enables staff to understand children's individual needs and promote their emotional well-being. Staff organise the environment very effectively to maximise children's choice, for example, whether to play indoors or outdoors. The outdoor area enables the children to have daily fresh air. They participate in a range of physical activities, such as riding scooters and dancing around the tree. Children have healthy snacks which they bring in from home. Children develop increasing independence as they wash their hands and put coats on. However, staff pour children's drinks and tidy away the cups which means children do not have the opportunity to develop their independence further. Children behave well because staff are good role models. The children learn to share and take turns and staff praise children who do this well. Staff support children successfully with keeping themselves, and others, safe. For example, when the floor became wet, staff reminded the children to be careful so they did not slip over.

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

Management and staff understand and implement the learning and development requirements effectively. Staff are qualified well and work strongly together as a team. They develop their skills by attending courses and share new knowledge within the staff team to benefit the children. For example, staff introduced picture cards to support the development of children's early communication skills. The supervisor regularly monitors children's progress and identifies gaps in learning which they then address. Staff have developed very good relationships with parents, other agencies and early years professionals at the school. As a result, staff understand and meet children's needs fully.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY388325
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	986309
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Combe St Nicholas Church of England VA Primary School Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	2 June 2009
Telephone number	01460 63116

Tadpoles Pre School opened in 1976 and registered at the current premises in the grounds of Combe St Nicholas School, Chard, Somerset in 2008. There are strong links with the school because the governors of the school run the pre-school. The pre-school receives the government funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm and on Fridays from 9am to 12.30pm, term time only. The pre-school employs five staff to work directly with the children. Of these, three hold a level 3 qualification and two hold a level 2 qualification.

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