

# Cygnet Community Pre-School



c/o Swanmead Community School, Ditton Street, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0BL

<b>Inspection date</b>	22 April 2015
Previous inspection date	3 February 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff know the children extremely well. They plan a range of exciting and challenging experiences, which engage and motivate them successfully. As a result, children make good progress in all areas of learning.
- Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know how to keep children safe. They are able to recognise signs or symptoms that may be a cause for concern and are aware of the reporting procedures to follow if they had a concern about a child's welfare.
- Children behave well because staff are good role models. They support children well with learning to share and understanding their feelings. Children develop close relationships with their key person and other staff, which ensure they feel safe and happy in the pre-school environment.
- There are strong partnerships with parents, carers and professionals. They communicate well to identify children's learning needs and share children's achievements effectively. This means that all children's learning and development is well promoted, including children with specific needs.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always organise large group activities to encourage children to listen and concentrate. Sometimes, children that are more confident call out the answer when asked questions and the activity is too long to hold children's interest.
- Staff do not maximise all opportunities for children to practise their writing skills. Staff do not provide a broad range of opportunities to enable children to write for different purposes and do not always encourage them to label their own pictures.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of large group activities, to fully promote children's listening and concentration
- make the most of all opportunities for children to practise their early writing, including labelling their own pictures.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including planning and children's development records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the acting manager and had discussions with the special educational needs co-ordinator.
- The inspector took account of the provider's self-evaluation and spoke with staff, children and parents present on the day of the inspection.

### Inspector

Michelle Tuck

## 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 have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. Children have many opportunities to learn about the world. They explore and understand the life cycle of the frog. They plant and grow vegetables and fruit in the allotment, which they harvest and enjoy eating. Children are curious and inquisitive learners. They skilfully used real tools, such as a hammer and a saw, to make things from wood. Staff teach them how to use a spirit level and introduce new words such as mallet. Staff make the most of incidental learning opportunities. They count in routines, encourage the children to sequence and match numerals, talk about shapes and introduced positional language, such as over and under. This prepares them well for the next stage in their learning and their move to school. Children explore books for themselves. They use their imaginations well in role play, pretending to be pirates on the play equipment in the field.

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

Staff and children share warm and responsive interactions with one another. Staff provide consistent praise and encouragement for the children's efforts and achievements. This boosts their confidence and self-esteem. Staff teach the children about the importance of following thorough hygiene routines, eating healthily and staying safe. They have daily opportunities to benefit from fresh air and exercise in the exciting outside learning environment.

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

Children are safe and secure because staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. The provider uses effective methods to monitor staff practice and the educational programmes. Staff observe the children in their play and activities, make accurate assessments of their development and plan for their next steps in learning. Staff use self-evaluation effectively to identify areas for development, which include the views of parents and children. They work effectively with professionals and other early years providers to ensure consistency in children's care and learning. Supervision, appraisals and observation of teaching helps to monitor staff effectiveness. Staff attend training and regularly update their knowledge to develop and improve the provision. For example, they have new ideas for activities to develop children's muscles and hand movements, which they need to develop handwriting skills.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	142775
<b>Local authority</b>	Somerset
<b>Inspection number</b>	825797
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	54
<b>Name of provider</b>	Cygnet Community Pre-School Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	3 February 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01460 57444

Cygnet Pre-School registered in 1995. It operates from a detached building in the grounds of Swanmead Middle School near to the centre of Ilminster, Somerset. They are open from Monday to Friday during school term time from 9am until 3pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two and three. They employ six members of staff, three members are qualified to level 3 and two to level 2.

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