

Storytime Nursery School

Kersey House, Queens Place, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3HF



Inspection date

24 April 2015

Previous inspection date

20 April 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

- Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery school. They are very happy and relaxed in the welcoming environment. Staff enable them to take part in and enjoy a wide range of activities which stimulate and motivate them.
- The quality of teaching throughout the nursery is very good. Staff ensure that all children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make very good progress in their learning.
- The nursery celebrates its diversity well. All children are respected and valued, and staff are sensitive to children's individual needs. Children form strong attachments to staff. This helps them to develop confidence and self-esteem, promoting their ability to learn.
- Children benefit hugely from the very successful partnership between the staff and parents, who share key information effectively between them.
- The owner and staff team work very well together. They have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They all demonstrate a commitment to promoting high-quality provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Group times do not always meet the needs of the younger children who do not want to sit for an extended time.
- The nursery does not ensure that all food offered to the children is nutritious and healthy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review group times to meet the needs of all children, to ensure the younger children are not sitting for long periods.
- improve the selection of snacks offered, ensuring they are well-balanced and nutritious, and involve parents in providing healthy options for their children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the owner and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and sampled other documentation, including safeguarding information.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the indoor and the outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the owner.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Alison Large

Inspection findings

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

Children make very good progress in their learning under the care of the knowledgeable staff team. Staff create an environment where the atmosphere is positive and encouraging. Staff support children very well and show a good understanding of children's individual learning needs. Children are very active learners. Staff enable the children to develop new skills, grow in confidence and rise to the challenge of trying something new. Staff use good-quality teaching methods to support and challenge children's learning as they help children to sound out and form different letters; lots of praise and encouragement is given for children's emergent writing, which in turn greatly boosts children's self-esteem and confidence. All children enjoy opportunities to choose, participate and become independent in their play. However, group times do not always meet the needs of the younger children who do not want to sit for long periods. The owner and staff ensure the monitoring of children's progress towards all the early learning goals is effective.

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

Children develop strong emotional bonds and trusting relationships with the staff and this connection helps children develop their confidence. Staff fully promote the children's health and safety within the nursery. Children behave well. They are developing positive relationships with each other and interact well together. Children learn good hygiene routines and effective systems are in place to inform staff of any health or dietary issues the children may have. Snack times and lunch times are happy social times for the children, where they can sit together and chat. However, the staff do not ensure that the food provided by both the nursery and parents is healthy and nutritious. Children are secure and safe in the nursery, feeling a sense of belonging. All staff are committed to making sure that children's preparation and the move on to school is as smooth as possible.

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

The owner and staff team are committed to maintaining high levels of achievement for the children. The owner monitors staff performance and ensures they keep their skills and knowledge up to date. Arrangements for safeguarding children are robust. All staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures. Clear procedures are in place for recruitment and vetting of staff. The owner evaluates the nursery provision to identify strengths and areas for improvement. At present, the nursery does not have any children who attend another setting. However, there are procedures in place to link with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage, if children attend. This results in a fully shared approach to children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143561
Local authority	Portsmouth
Inspection number	836665
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Storytime Nursery School Limited
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2009
Telephone number	02392 754832

Storytime Nursery School is privately owned and registered in 1993. It operates from the ground floor of a Victorian house in the Southsea area of Hampshire. The nursery is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, for 49 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. There are seven members of staff employed to work with the children. Six hold relevant early years qualifications.

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