

Little Otters Pre-School

East Budleigh Village Hall, Wynards Road, East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon,
EX9 7DU



Inspection date

6 May 2015

Previous inspection date

15 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider does not have a full understanding of the correct procedures to follow to inform Ofsted of changes to new committee members.
- Although staff plan small group activities to help meet the needs of all children, on occasion, they do not provide a high level of challenge for the more able children.
- There is not always a broad range of resources available to support children's understanding of cause and effect.

It has the following strengths

- Staff welcome each child individually and use affectionate nicknames, which helps to build strong relationships.
- Children have high self-esteem. They try out their ideas and ask for support when needed because staff routinely praise their efforts and achievements.
- Overall, staff plan well for children's learning and development to identify next steps and provide appropriate challenge through activities and their positive interaction. This means children become confident learners.
- Staff have a good knowledge of appropriate safeguarding procedures, including how to refer concerns relating to children's welfare to external agencies.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- provide Ofsted promptly with information needed to determine the suitability of all committee members.

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

- ensure small group activities consistently provide a good level of challenge for the more able children, to further extend their learning
- enhance the range of technological resources to enable children to routinely investigate cause and effect in their self-chosen activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, provider and staff at convenient times throughout the day.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including suitability checks of adults connected with the setting, and planning and records of children's progress.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a good range of resources to encourage children to create their own stimulating play. For instance, children construct pictures of their homes using magnetic connectors, which initiates discussion with friends. As a result, children develop a positive attitude towards learning. Small group activities enable staff to provide individual support to all children. This extends their development in all areas, which prepares them well for the move to school. However, on occasion, the more able children do not always receive enough challenge during these times. For example, they identify rhyming pairs from picture cards and provide suggestions of other words that also rhyme with them with ease. Planning and assessment arrangements are good and staff share these frequently with parents and other settings that children attend. This means that strong partnership working extends children's learning in different environments and situations.

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

Staff are positive role models and show respect for children and each other. For instance, they give children a five-minute warning before they need to tidy up, which means they can finish their play in their own way. Consequently, children learn good social skills, such as taking turns to share resources with their friends. Staff teach children independence through daily tasks, such as pouring drinks and setting out plates and cups for snack time. This supports their personal skills and physical development well. The environment is safe and welcoming. Staff teach children about safety and healthy practices, for example, when practising the fire drill and promoting hand washing. There is a good range of resources available to engage and interest children. However, they do not always have access to a broad range of resources to support their understanding of technology.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager and staff understand their responsibilities regarding the daily operation of the pre-school. However, the provider has not informed Ofsted of changes to the committee. This means that Ofsted is unable to verify the suitability of all adults connected with the pre-school. This does not have a significant impact on children because committee members do not have direct contact with them and staff supervise all visitors. Regular staff supervision meetings provide effective support to monitor the progress of all children and identify staff training needs. The manager has recently completed behaviour management training, with the intention to share the knowledge and ideas she has gained with staff to implement consistent procedures. Regular team meetings and parent questionnaires help the manager to identify and address areas for development. Management has addressed the recommendations from previous inspections well to meet children's needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105992
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	839361
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Little Otters Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 March 2010
Telephone number	01395 445825

Little Otters Pre-School registered in 1994. It is a committee run group that operates from the village hall in East Budleigh, East Devon. The pre-school is open term time only. Sessions run from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9.15am to 12.45pm on Thursday. The pre-school is registered to provide free early years education to two-, three- and four-year-old children. A total of seven members of staff are employed to work with the children, six of whom hold relevant early years qualifications to at least level 3.

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