

Tiverton Little Stars

Tiverton Little Stars, Methodist Church St Peter Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6NZ



Inspection date

5 May 2015

Previous inspection date

6 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 have a good understanding of what children are capable of because they frequently observe them in their play and check closely how well they are developing.
- Effective partnerships between parents and the pre-school staff ensures parents are well-informed about their child's progress and how to help them learn at home.
- Staff offer good support to families who face challenging circumstances. They work well with a range of professionals to ensure that families get the help and support they need.
- Staff are warm and caring and as a result all children form good relationships with those who care for them.
- Leaders are committed to improving the quality of the pre-school and have made significant improvements since the last inspection. They have worked hard to make changes which ensure children are kept safe and make good progress in their learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Leaders do not always check the quality of teaching closely so do not have a full picture of what staff do well and where they may need to develop.
- On occasion, adult-led activities are not organised well enough to ensure all children make the best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the organisation of adult-led activities so that they consistently support all children to make progress in their learning and development
- strengthen the monitoring of teaching so that leaders have a clear picture of what staff do well and where they need to improve.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning both indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the nominated individual and spoke with children and staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including records of children's progress, recruitment and vetting procedures and policies that support the safeguarding of children.
- The inspector spoke with a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jane Burchall

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress because staff know them well and have a good understanding of what they can do and what they need to do next. They use this information well to plan a range of interesting activities which children enjoy. For example, children are fascinated to learn about 'minibeasts'. They find out about where they live and how to take care of them, they explore their similarities and differences and enjoy pretending to move like their favourite creature. However, sometimes activities led by staff do not always meet the varying needs of all children. Children are developing important skills for future learning. They learn how to take turns, to share and to work together. Staff support children's developing language skills well, including those who speak English as an additional language. They speak clearly to the children, introduce new vocabulary into activities and use pictures and gestures well to support children to communicate.

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

An effective key person system enables children to form strong attachments to those who care for them. Children are beginning to understand how to behave because staff explain clearly what is expected and remind children to use 'kind hands' and 'kind words'. Children are learning about how to be healthy. They are provided with healthy options at snack time and plant and harvest potatoes and vegetables in the pre-school garden. Regular access to the outside environment means that they have plenty of opportunities to access fresh air and exercise. They learn how to safely climb on the nursery equipment and to manage scooters and wheeled toys. Children grow in confidence. Regular praise and encouragement from staff helps children to feel good about themselves and helps them to become increasingly independent. Staff work closely with local schools to help prepare children for the move.

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

In the short time the manager has been in post she has worked closely with the committee, the staff team and the local authority to identify how the nursery could improve. Steps taken to bring about improvement have been effective. Children are now kept safe and staff now have a better understanding of each child's abilities. Leaders and staff keep a close check on the progress children make. They quickly notice when children are not doing as well as they might and provide the necessary support so that they swiftly begin to catch up. When staff are concerned about the safety of a child in their care they closely follow relevant procedures to ensure that children are kept safe. Staff feel well supported and are given opportunities to access training and to undertake qualifications. While the manager has an understanding of the quality of teaching through working alongside staff, she is aware that she needs to extend her monitoring so that she can more clearly identify where further improvements could be made.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY381950
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1003775
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Tiverton Little Stars Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2014
Telephone number	01884 243490

Tiverton Little Stars is a committee-run pre-school which registered in 2009. It operates from converted rooms attached to Tiverton Methodist Church. The pre-school is open from Monday to Thursday 9.15am to 3.15pm, term time only. There are currently 22 children on roll. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. It supports children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who learn English as an additional language. The pre-school employs six members of staff. The manager holds a relevant level 6 qualification. Three members of staff hold level 3 qualifications. Two staff are unqualified; one is working towards a level 2 and the other towards achieving her early years teacher qualification. Two volunteers also work at the pre-school.

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