

Secret Garden Nursery and Pre-School

The Barns, Brinsea Road, Congresbury, Avon, BS49 5JL



Inspection date

11 May 2015

Previous inspection date

21 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

- The management team provides a good role model for staff and encourages them to reflect on their practice. Consequently, the quality of teaching is consistently good and sometimes outstanding. Self-evaluation includes parents' and children's feedback. This enables staff to identify the most significant actions for continuous improvement.
- Staff pose good questions that enable children to think of solutions to problems and follow through their own ideas. For example, children outdoors used watering cans to collect water from the tap to make the mud wet. They noticed a spout was blocked and through trial and error they found a way to unblock it.
- Staff praise children for trying new skills and persevering with a task. They have introduced terms, such as 'tough tortoise' and 'busy bee', to let them know they are trying hard and getting involved. This promotes children's self-esteem and develops a strong sense of achievement. As a result, all children make good progress.
- There are strong partnerships with parents, which enable staff to get to know children and understand their backgrounds. This ensures they promote children's well-being effectively and meet their individual needs. Staff follow consistently good strategies with parents to support children in managing conflict and understanding their feelings.
- Since the last inspection, the manager has ensured that they check the suitability of all staff to safeguard children. In addition, there is an effective induction programme carried out by the senior member of staff responsible for that area of provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always encourage children to contribute and find out what they want to know during whole group discussions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support older children further in asking questions to find out what they want to know and engage fully in whole group discussions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager and held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector spoke with staff, children and parents present at the inspection and took account of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their observations well to plan for children's next stages of learning. They provide a good environment that enables children to initiate their learning and take part in adult-led activities. Children develop firm foundations in their key areas of development, which prepare them well for their next stage of learning. Babies learn about cause and effect when staff tell them 'you did that' as they look to see where an item has gone. Then they repeat their actions. Toddlers find out how they can blow or wave a wand to make bubbles and staff point out the wind is making them fly higher. Staff encourage children of all ages to be as independent as possible. They involve children in carrying out appropriate tasks, such as helping to prepare and serve food. Staff engage older children in small group discussions where they hold an item to know it is their turn to speak. However, when they do this as a whole group, staff ask the questions rather than encouraging children to do so. Therefore, not all children find out what they want to know and engage fully.

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

Staff find out from parents what is important to their families and help them to celebrate their backgrounds together. This provides an inclusive environment where children gain a positive attitude to people's differences. Each child has a special adult allocated to them. This helps staff to get to know them really well and to provide good support for children's physical and emotional well-being. In addition, it provides a secure base from which babies and toddlers enjoy exploring the environment, such as when playing a game of hide and seek. Children have daily opportunities to be outdoors, where they learn the importance of exercise and keeping safe. Babies practised their walking skills and pre-school children demonstrated how to walk safely around a fire pit, for example.

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

The highly qualified management team carries out in-house training and regularly supervises staff to help them be consistent in implementing new practices. For example, they are focusing on listening effectively to children before interpreting their meaning. This helps to ensure that staff do not interrupt children's thoughts and ideas but enhance them. Management involves staff in reviewing the needs of the children they care for. As a result, the staff working with older children added logs and crates to explore in the garden. This challenges children's ability to take supervised risks to promote their physical skills further. Management has successful systems for monitoring children's development needs. As a result, any gaps in children's learning soon close through effective support. All staff know how to protect children from risk of harm. They deploy themselves well and carry out good risk assessments.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY287497
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	1013086
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Stefanie Jayne Metcalfe
Date of previous inspection	21 May 2014
Telephone number	01934 853350

Secret Garden Nursery and Pre-School registered in 2004. The nursery operates from a converted barn on Elms Farm, in Congresbury, North Somerset. The nursery is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, all year, except for one week at Christmas. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 13 members of staff; of whom one holds Early Years Professional Status. There are eight staff who hold early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2. In addition, there is one apprentice and two cooks. The owner is working towards an early years teaching qualification.

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