

Noahs Ark Childcare Centre



Noah's Ark Childcare Centres, 20-24 Lucas Terrace, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 9LD

Inspection date 19 May 2015
Previous inspection date 14 July 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 nursery is led and managed in a way that fully promotes children's care, welfare and learning needs well.
- Staff interact skilfully with the children and, as a result, the children develop good communication and language skills, and strong relationships with others.
- Effective assessment procedures ensure staff have an accurate understanding of the developmental stages for each child. This helps them accurately target next steps for development that will support children when moving on to the next stage in their learning.
- Children behave well as staff use positive approaches to support their inclusion and achievements. Consequently, children have good self-esteem and confidence.
- Children learn how to stay healthy and well as they develop good independence and personal hygiene skills during the daily routines and sociable meal occasions.
- Staff develop good partnerships with parents and work successfully with them to promote children's learning. Parents are well informed about their children's developmental progress and how to extend their learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make use of spontaneous opportunities to enhance more able children's awareness of mathematical ideas, such as comparing weight and capacity, during activities.
- Staff, on occasion, do not support younger children to fully practise their skills while using creative tools and making marks, as they intervene too quickly to help.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities throughout the sessions to promote older children's mathematical language, such as through comparison of capacity and weight
- strengthen opportunities for younger children to fully explore tools and mark making equipment to increase their physical skills and to represent their ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector held meetings at appropriate times with the manager and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector looked at a sample of records relating to planning, and children's assessment and welfare.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of parents' views and of the provider's self-evaluation

Inspector

Dawn Biggers

Inspection findings

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

The staff's good knowledge of the children's progress means they provide a broad and stimulating range of learning opportunities. Children eagerly engage in fun activities, for instance, they confidently communicate, sing rhymes and play games as they become familiar with letters sounds. Children make good progress in their language as staff skilfully engage, question, listen and challenge them to think and solve problems. As a result, children use some mathematical language as they learn about sizes and shapes, and acquire valuable skills in readiness for school. The effective use of props supports the children's engagement in activities well. For example, story themes help the younger children become interactive learners as they design their animal puppet and enjoy the repetition of words which supports their increasing vocabulary.

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

The staff have warm, interactive relationships with the children, which support their emotional well-being well, and are knowledgeable about their individual needs. Children learn about healthy choices as they self-serve their own nutritious fruit snack choices and drinks. Children are eager to learn new physical skills and confidently engage in sociable activities. They benefit from regular outdoor learning experiences which promote their understanding of the world and their physical development, such as planting and nurturing the vegetables they grow. Staff enthusiastically recognise children's achievements and use positive reinforcement and individual approaches to engage them. Consequently, children are responsive and engage in activities in a welcoming environment where they are familiar with the routine and join in songs to help tidy away.

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

The leadership team has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and is highly committed to children's safety, well-being and learning. The increased monitoring processes and emphasis on inclusion have led to improvements in both staff performance and the quality of the provision. There is a strong emphasis on driving forward improvements through evaluation. As a result, assessment processes are thorough and consistent across the age groups. Staff, as key persons, effectively identify children's individual needs, their next steps in learning and deliver good-quality education. Staff's professional development is strongly supported by supervision, appraisals and training. Consequently, staff skilfully adapt activities and engage all children in them to support their individual needs. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of child protection procedures and are knowledgeable about reporting concerns.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117135
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	983919
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	67
Name of provider	Noah's Ark Childcare Centres Limited
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2014
Telephone number	01752 601909

Noah's Ark Childcare Centre registered in 1996. It is one of a chain of nurseries owned and operated by Noah's Ark Childcare Centres. It is located in Prince Rock, Plymouth, Devon. The setting is open each weekday, from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The setting is in receipt of funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are 10 members of staff, of whom nine hold appropriate early years qualifications to level 2 and 3.

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