

Nursery Rhyme

26 River Way, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 2QP



Inspection date

26 May 2015

Previous inspection date

8 January 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
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:

- Staff are developing their understanding of a new observation and assessment system. However, they are not using children's next steps in their learning effectively to plan activities that challenge them.
- The quality of teaching and staff interaction with children is variable. Staff working with the younger children often miss opportunities to extend children's vocabulary and set appropriate challenges. Therefore, not all children make as much progress as they could.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy, settled and secure. They make good relationships with adults and one another.
- Children use a good range of play equipment and resources, both inside and outside. Staff value children's ideas as they evaluate and improve the learning environment. For example, they have made a 'stone' area in the garden to extend children's exploratory and imaginative play.
- Staff know how to safeguard children and keep them safe. They understand their responsibilities with regard to child protection issues and update their knowledge through training.
- Positive partnerships with parents enable staff to meet children's care needs well. Parents say that their children settle quickly and are developing good social skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve observation and assessment to make sure that staff use their knowledge of children's learning priorities to plan challenging activities
- develop the monitoring of staff effectiveness and improve consistency in the quality of teaching practice, with particular regard to those working with the younger children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities, inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and interview with the provider.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, which included the attendance records, safeguarding policy, recruitment procedures and children's progress records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff provide a welcoming environment where children learn through play and exploration. For example, some children were keen to find bugs in the garden, making a record of what they had found. Others used their imaginations as they acted out real life situations with small models. Children learn to recognise their written name as they find their own name labels when they arrive. Some staff promote children's language and knowledge well. At the inspection, older children learnt about money used in different countries, eagerly finding places on a map and a globe. Staff introduced words such as 'hologram' as they looked at various bank notes. However, staff working with younger children often asked questions that have a right or wrong answer. For example, they asked what colour is this or how many trains are there? Therefore, they were not extending children's vocabulary and thinking. Key persons make observations of children's play, identifying some next steps in their learning, which they record in individual files and share with parents. However, there is no clear system for using and sharing this information to plan challenging activities. Therefore, staff are not always aware of how to promote every child's progress effectively.

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

Staff obtain important information from parents when children first start. Children benefit because this enables staff to help them feel secure and ready to learn. Children behave well. Staff praise children regularly, which boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Children develop independence in their self-care routines, such as personal hygiene, managing their clothes and preparing food. These skills help prepare children for starting school. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. Children have daily fresh air and exercise and choose from nutritious options at snack time, which promotes their physical development.

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

Staff have addressed the actions set at the last inspection which has improved children's safety. The provider has completed appropriate checks to ensure staff suitability to work with children. She carries out risk assessments to minimise hazards and keep children safe. Staff have taken advice about promoting children's learning and progress. For example, they have introduced props and puppets at story time to keep younger children interested. However, staff understanding of the new assessment system is not clear to enable them to plan effectively. The provider makes observations of staff practice, but some areas of teaching are still inconsistent throughout the team. Staff share useful information with other early years providers when children attend additional settings to help promote consistency in care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	144298
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1003734
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Angela Sherrie Dewey
Date of previous inspection	8 January 2015
Telephone number	01202 482648

Nursery Rhyme registered in 1985. It is managed by the proprietor and operates from their home in Christchurch, Dorset. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school operates between 8am and 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. There are seven members of staff working with the children, of whom, six hold a suitable childcare qualification, including one at level 4.

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