

St Catherine's Kindergarten

Cutlers Place, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2HN



Inspection date

4 June 2015

Previous inspection date

24 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide good support for children's emotional well-being and form effective partnerships with parents. Parents are encouraged to share information with staff to help their children's learning.
- Children learn to behave well because staff make their expectations clear. Staff support younger children well in learning to get along with other children.
- Staff have developed an attractive, well-resourced outdoor environment that supports children's learning in all areas.
- Children develop a good understanding of number because staff provide frequent opportunities for children to experiment with a number of objects and count what they see.
- Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and this helps them to keep children safe and protected from harm.
- Staff have addressed the recommendation from the previous inspection well so there are now good partnerships with other early years settings. This improvement, combined with further changes made as a result of training, has helped the kindergarten maintain its high standards of service.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for children to experiment with writing for purpose in their play to gain further valuable skills in readiness for the move to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to experiment with writing for purpose in their play

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector talked to children, staff, a committee member and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation and discussed the ways in which practice in the nursery is evaluated in order to make plans for improvement.
- The inspector looked at planning documentation and a range of other documentation including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jacqueline Good

Inspection findings

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

Staff regularly observe and talk to children to identify their individual interests, skills and achievements. Staff plan activities that build on these and support all children's learning well. They ask challenging questions to extend children's thinking; for example, staff asked children what animals live in Australia. Children learn to move expressively in response to music. They enjoyed waving ribbons to represent waves at sea and were encouraged to think what might be happening at certain points in the music. Children access the outdoor learning environment independently and enjoy learning how to grow plants. Children enjoy making marks with paint, which helps develop their coordination. Children who speak English as an additional language make good progress because staff use effective techniques to support language development.

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

Children demonstrate a sense of security because of their strong attachments to staff. Staff help them to settle at their own pace and provide as much emotional reassurance as children need during their initial attendances. This helps children develop confidence. Initiatives such as 'Happy Hands Tree' celebrate children's achievements, both in and outside school. Children learn to manage their hygiene because staff emphasise the importance of routines such as washing hands before eating. Children practise how to do this effectively using a technique modelled by staff. Children learn about the importance of a healthy diet and enjoy eating healthy snacks. They serve themselves, which enables them to make choices about what, and how much, they wish to eat. Staff encourage further independence through ensuring children hang up coats and aprons. This helps children prepare for the next stage in their learning.

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

The manager and staff have a comprehensive understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They use this and their qualifications to implement these effectively so all aspects of the provision are at least good. The manager checks children's progress to monitor staff practice and knows each child's next steps in learning. This means she can monitor the effectiveness of daily activities in relation to each child's needs. Training, such as the teaching of phonics, has helped staff adopt an approach consistent with the host school with which there is a very good relationship. Staff have established good working relationships with parents, other early years providers and external agencies to ensure that all children receive good support in their care, learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	144310
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	846627
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	St Catherine's Kindergarten Committee
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2011
Telephone number	01202 883763

St Catherine's Kindergarten registered in 1993 and moved into a new building in April 2014. It has exclusive use of a classroom and outdoor area within St Catherine's RC Primary School, Wimborne. The kindergarten is open during school terms from 8.45am to 11.45am each Tuesday and Thursday and until 3pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Funding for early education is available for two, three and four-year-old children. There are six staff employed to work directly with the children, four of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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