

# Sandcastles Preschool Playgroup



Connor Downs Sunday School, Turnpike Road, Connor Downs, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 5DT

<b>Inspection date</b>	8 June 2015
Previous inspection date	2 February 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff develop warm and positive relationships with children. They use their knowledge gained from training to provide children with stronger emotional support, ensuring that children feel safe and secure in readiness for learning.
- Effective assessment and planning procedures result in staff providing a wide range of activities that support children's good progress across all areas of learning.
- Clear, user-friendly progress records for two-year-old children effectively identify children's abilities, their next steps and how parents can support them at home.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff share good information about the educational programme and the progress their children make.
- Staff identify children with additional needs promptly and work effectively with other agencies to meet children's specific needs.
- Staff make very good use of their outdoor play space to extend children's learning.
- The management team monitors staff effectiveness to ensure they meet the children's learning and developmental needs well. Effective self-evaluation results in good quality experiences for the children and their families.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend children's communication further to support those who are shy or need extra support to better understand and share their thoughts and ideas.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- extend children's communication to support those who are shy or need extra support to better understand and share their thoughts and ideas.

### **Inspection activities**

- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection and those included in the setting's own parent survey.
- The inspector and manager carried out and discussed a joint observation.
- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outdoor play areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the chairperson and staff.
- The inspector checked documents relating to the suitability and qualifications of staff and sampled documentation regarding planning and children's progress.

### **Inspector**

Lynne Bowden

## Inspection findings

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

Staff quickly establish children's starting points and identify their next steps in learning. Staff and parents meet regularly to review and summarise children's progress. This helps them plan for future learning. Management monitors children's progress well to ensure they all make good progress. The quality of teaching is good. Staff skilfully reinforce children's skills through routine activities. At snack time, children pour out drinks and use knives to spread butter. This promotes their coordination and independence. Outdoors, staff skilfully extend children's cooperative and imaginative play. Children learn to work well together to solve problems. Staff encourage them as they design and build a fire engine, which inspires children's imaginations as they take on and designate roles, enthusiastically rescuing each other from imagined perils. Staff ably introduce children to mathematical ideas and language when they talk to them about how full or empty containers of rice and pasta are. They skilfully check and reinforce children's recognition and awareness of numerals and the numbers they represent by introducing numbered resources to a range of different activities. Children's developing confidence, independence and communication skills equip them well for their future learning.

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

The pre-school provides a warm and friendly environment where staff welcome children and their parents. Staff give children's sense of security and well-being high priority, which results in confident children who enjoy learning and spending time with their friends. Staff work effectively with parents to identify and meet children's needs, arranging for additional support from professionals when necessary. Staff teach children about good hygiene and actions that will help to keep them safe. Children benefit from daily access to the secure outdoor play space. Here, they explore and enjoy energetic play and fresh air. Children learn to behave well because staff teach them how to negotiate and take turns.

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

Staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities and a secure knowledge of child protection procedures to safeguard children. They follow effective safety measures to keep children safe. The committee and manager support staff training and development well and staff enthusiastically use their knowledge from training to develop and improve children's learning experiences. This results in improvements to children's behaviour and their readiness to learn. The pre-school has addressed the recommendation raised at the last inspection well to ensure planning and assessment, and partnerships with parents and other early years settings children attend work well to meet children's needs.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY246058
<b>Local authority</b>	Cornwall
<b>Inspection number</b>	832966
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	38
<b>Name of provider</b>	Sandcastles Preschool Playgroup
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	2 February 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	07976 315692

Sandcastles Preschool Playgroup is committee-run and registered in 2002. It operates from the church hall in the village of Connor Downs, near Hayle, Cornwall. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 3.30pm during school term. They receive the nursery education funding for two, three and four-year-old children. The pre-school employs four members of staff; one has a degree in Early Years, two hold early years qualifications at Level 2 and 3, and one is working towards a Level 2 qualification.

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