

The Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre

Bowen's Hill Road, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8DU



Inspection date

9 June 2015

Previous inspection date

18 April 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

- Children progress well from their starting points on entry. Staff have a good understanding about how children learn and they support all children's individual needs very well.
- The staff provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment where children are safe, secure and confident in the adults' company. Staff work hard to ensure that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are integrated well and can take part in all activities equally with the other children.
- Children's safety is a priority for the staff. They are clear about safeguarding procedures should they have any child protection concerns. Staff implement the requirements effectively and look after children well.
- There are good partnerships with parents, carers and other professionals. Detailed information is shared between them, which enables all adults involved with children to support children's learning and development. Parents and carers speak highly about the care provided.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The timing of routines, such as snack time, sometimes means that children are unable to complete activities that they have started and staff do not encourage them to return to complete these later, to develop concentration and increase their sense of achievement.
- Staff supervise children well and quickly intervene when minor squabbles occur but they do not always help children to understand how to be sensitive to the needs of others and to think about the consequences of their actions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review routines to enable children time to either complete or return to an activity that they have started
- help children understand how to be sensitive to others and the consequences of their actions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play room, quiet room and the two outside areas.
- The inspector held a meeting with the joint managers of the setting and had discussions with the staff, children, parents and carers.
- The inspector checked the evidence of staff suitability to work with children and their qualifications, and the provider's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, safeguarding procedures, risk assessments, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

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

Children develop their communication and language skills well. Staff speak clearly to children and use sign language to help all understand what is being said. Staff spend time with groups of children who require extra support with language skills. Children enjoy books and can access these alone or with adults. Children develop their personal and social development well. Staff explain clearly to children about taking care of others. Children learn to share and take turns through clear explanations from staff. Children start to learn counting and colour recognition by playing games such as putting large counters in a frame. Staff help children count as they put the counters in the frame and ask children about what colour they are using. Staff offer lots of praise and encouragement when children achieve to encourage them. Staff prepare children well for their next stage in learning.

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

Children are happy, confident and comfortable in their surroundings. Staff have a calm, caring approach towards them. Staff meet children's individual care needs extremely well. They recognise when children are hungry, need extra attention or a rest. Staff effectively promote good personal hygiene practices for children. They are very aware of maintaining children's privacy when changing them. Children enjoy outside play and come back inside when they chose. Children use two outside areas, where they are able to explore natural materials. They enjoy digging, for example, and making muddy holes by pouring water on the bare areas. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. They enjoy healthy snacks and are encouraged to develop their personal independence according to their level of development. For example, some children enjoy buttering crackers and pouring their drinks with help from staff when required. Staff meet children's physical needs well.

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

Staff work together well as a team. They are highly motivated by managers who use their qualifications well and are enthusiastic; staff enjoy being with the children. This all results in the children enjoying their time at the group. Staff and management regularly review their practice and drive improvements to maintain good quality childcare; for example, by addressing recommendations set at the previous inspection. Managers check staff practice and identify their training needs with relevant courses attended. These actions have helped to maintain the quality of teaching at a consistently good standard and help promote good outcomes for children. Detailed observations and assessments help staff to provide challenging activities for the children. Staff share information that enables parents to support their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	101592
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	839111
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Forest Of Dean Opportunity Centre Committee
Date of previous inspection	18 April 2011
Telephone number	01594 837552

The Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre registered in 2009. The centre is open each weekday except for the Christmas period and on bank holidays. Term-time sessions are from 9am to 12 noon and from 12.30pm to 3pm. The playscheme is open from 9.30am to 3pm during every school holiday. The centre currently supports a significant number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are eight staff who work directly with the children, two joint managers and a receptionist. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at Level 2 and above and one member of staff holds an Early Years Professional Status qualification.

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