

The Mill Nursery

St. Vigor & St. John C of E Primary School, Wells Road, RADSTOCK, BA3 4EX



Inspection date

16 June 2015

Previous inspection date

16 February 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Leaders use their extensive experience and knowledge skilfully to evaluate the overall quality of the nursery. They have very high expectations of staff and guide them through thorough support and supervision so that outcomes for children continually improve.
- The quality of teaching across the nursery is outstanding. Staff consistently provide all children with a wide variety of challenging and interesting learning experiences. These focus on children's interests and clearly identified needs. Therefore, children are inspired and actively engaged and, as a result, they are highly motivated to learn.
- The sharply focused and rigorous observation and assessment methods help staff to check children's progress. Staff swiftly identify and address any gaps in children's development, meaning all children make excellent developmental progress.
- Children are emotionally settled and very confident due to the highly nurturing and established relationships they have with staff. They behave exceptionally well and play and learn together very happily.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. They contribute to their children's learning and assessment and staff keep them fully informed of their children's progress and achievements. As a result, there are exceptional links between home and nursery.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of how to keep children safe. They ensure children develop high self-control and independence, resulting in children gaining an excellent understanding of how to manage risk safely. There are thorough and clear procedures to follow should staff have any safeguarding concerns about children.
- Staff share their exceptionally high quality practices with other early settings to help them develop.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find even more inspiring ways to maintain the younger children's attention during small group activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with leaders at appropriate times during the inspection and in a scheduled meeting.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's records, planning and assessment documents, and records for the suitability of staff to work with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the early years leader for learning.

Inspector

Dominique Bird

Inspection findings

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

Staff teach language skills exceptionally well through phonics, skilful conversation and questioning. Children thoroughly enjoy learning phonics and enthusiastically sound out words. Staff ensure children have plenty of time to explore their own thoughts and ideas. They extend these by challenging children to solve problems and to think more deeply. Staff make story time extremely exciting and motivating for all children. They focus children's attention exceptionally well by using a range of teaching strategies, including the use of props and being highly enthusiastic. This very high quality teaching helps children love stories and books, which is valuable for their eventual school life. However, this teaching is not always present during song time to enable staff to engage the younger children's enthusiasm consistently. Established links with settings in India and West Africa mean that staff and children celebrate the variations in culture and learn about differences across the world. Visitors from India share their cultural food, music and customs with children, parents and staff. Staff annually visit the settings abroad and receive them as visitors.

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

Staff ensure that there is a highly stimulating environment with child-accessible resources that promote learning and challenge both indoors and outdoors. Extremely high quality outdoor play inspires children's learning across all areas. Children develop excellent physical skills and a secure knowledge of being healthy, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem very well. Staff prepare all children extremely well emotionally for the next stage in learning. Staff skilfully support children when moving rooms by accompanying them until they are settled. Parents and children welcome staff into their homes and this helps to build very close links between home and nursery. This contributes to children's well-being and means that children settle exceptionally well. Staff promote excellent hygiene practices and teach children why it is important to eat a balanced diet.

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

Staff fully understand and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. An excellent programme of training opportunities for staff, combined with the high qualification levels, means that staff are inspired and morale is very high. Staff are fully committed to their ongoing professional development and children learn from excellent teachers. Extremely strong methods for self-evaluation constantly assess the nursery to set focused plans to maintain the highest quality of teaching and achievement for all children. There are very strong partnerships with the school and other local schools that children will eventually attend. Staff share thorough information to promote continuity in children's care, learning and development, and to make their move into school seamless.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY399192
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	822491
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	84
Name of provider	Somerset County Council
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2010
Telephone number	01761 233847

The Mill Nursery registered in 2009. It is run by St Vigor and St John C of E Primary School. The nursery operates from the school grounds in Chilcompton, Somerset. The nursery is open from 8am until 5pm for 48 weeks of the year, closing for two weeks over Christmas, one week at Easter and one week in August. The nursery is in receipt of government funding for early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 16 members of staff to care for the children. The nursery manager holds a level 6 qualification and the other senior leaders are qualified teachers. Two staff have achieved Early Years Professional Status and all other members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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