

Noah's Ark Childcare Centres

30 Looe Street, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 0EA



Inspection date

23 June 2015

Previous inspection date

30 June 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 promote children's welfare effectively through a sound understanding of suitable child protection procedures. They confidently identify signs and symptoms that might cause concern and know how to refer these to seek advice from external agencies.
- Children have regular play opportunities indoors and outside. They particularly enjoy spending time in the garden. Staff understand the importance of fresh air and exercise on children's development, and provide ample time and resources to promote this.
- Staff provide strong support for children with developmental delay, working closely with parents and other professionals to identify appropriate teaching strategies. This helps them to make good progress.
- Children eagerly participate in small tasks throughout the day, which helps to develop their growing independence as they learn to do things for themselves.
- Assessment arrangements are precise and carefully focus on every child's development. Staff make regular observations of children's achievements and plan activities based on their next steps. As a result, all children make good progress in all areas of learning, in preparation for the move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Not all staff make the best use of questioning and do not always maintain a quieter environment during mealtimes within the pre-school room. This means they miss opportunities to develop children's thinking skills and encourage their participation in discussion.
- At times, staff do not always encourage children's counting during daily routines, because they count too fast to enable children to join in.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more opportunities for children to share their thoughts and ideas with staff and their friends through consistent use of open questions and by creating a quieter environment, especially during meal times
- extend children's understanding of number and counting during every day routines.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sought the views of parents, staff and children through conversations held on the day.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider.
- The inspector sampled documentation including children's development records, staff's qualification and training certificates, and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff have a secure understanding of how children learn. In the baby room, staff ensure young children sit comfortably against cushions to explore the sounds that musical instruments make. Staff extend toddler's imaginative play well and encourage them to make pretend meals in the role-play area. Pre-school children enjoy helping to make play dough. These activities stimulate children's positive attitude to learning. Generally, staff effectively model good communication and language. However, mealtimes in the pre-school room are sometimes too loud, meaning children have to shout to be heard. Additionally, some staff use less effective questioning to prompt children's ideas. Children are beginning to recognise and form letters in their names, using pencils and sand. Staff regularly initiate counting within daily routines. However, at times, they count too quickly and some children are not able to keep up. This means that staff miss opportunities to help some children learn about the order and value of numbers.

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

Staff establish warm relationships with children and routinely praise their efforts and achievements, which means children settle quickly and develop confidence. Children form good friendships because staff help them to play well together. For example, staff suggest the use of sand-timers to develop children's understanding of sharing, and encourage them to manage their emotions appropriately during minor conflicts. This means that children develop strong social skills and understand staff's expectations of them. Toys and equipment are stored at low-level, which helps children to make choices in their play. Staff deploy themselves well at all times to provide good supervision and extend children's learning. They regularly review risk assessments to monitor the safety of the premises, which successfully promotes children's welfare.

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

The provider and manager have a good understanding of their responsibilities in meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage. They monitor assessments of children's progress well, so staff can provide individual support to all children. Partnerships with parents are effective in sharing information regarding children's current stage of development, to promote children's consistent learning experiences. The provider and manager are highly supportive of staff and provide frequent opportunities for them to attend training. For instance, following training, staff now use more props when reading stories, making this a more active learning experience for children. The manager frequently reflects on the quality of teaching and reviews the systems that staff use, to identify areas to address and improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY262422
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	984208
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	73
Name of provider	Noah's Ark Childcare Centres Limited
Date of previous inspection	30 June 2014
Telephone number	01752 601888

Noah's Ark Childcare Centres registered in 2003. The nursery is part of a small, privately owned nursery chain. It is situated in a converted three-storey listed building, close to Plymouth city centre. The younger children are cared for in playrooms on the first floor and the pre-school room is on the ground floor. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate qualifications at level 2 or above. One member of staff holds Early Years Professional Status. The nursery opens each weekday, all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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