

Busy Otters Preschool Playgroup



Ottery St. Mary Primary School, Longdogs Lane, OTTERY ST. MARY, Devon, EX11 1HY

Inspection date	22 June 2015
Previous inspection date	11 October 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 are happy and form secure attachments with staff. Children benefit from the well-resourced, well-organised environment.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. The quality of teaching is consistently good and occasionally outstanding. Staff provide interesting activities. Consequently, children are excited to learn.
- Staff make good use of technology to enhance children's learning.
- Staff provide excellent opportunities for children to learn about numbers, shapes and measuring through daily routines and play activities. This prepares children well for future learning.
- Good partnerships with parents, other early years professionals and outside agencies enable staff to meet children's individual needs effectively. Children with specific needs receive very good support.
- Staff work well with the reception class teachers to prepare children for their move to school.
- Management uses self-evaluation successfully to improve outcomes for children. They involve parents, staff and other professionals to identify areas to address.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to promote all children's literacy skills fully because they do not provide resources for children to see print in their home language.
- Staff do not always provide equipment to enable children to serve themselves snacks in a hygienic way so they learn about healthy practices.

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 literacy skills by providing opportunities for them to see their home language represented in the environment
- provide equipment that enables children to consistently serve their snacks in a hygienic way, helping them to learn about keeping healthy.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this had on children's learning, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including a range of policies and children's progress records.
- The inspector spoke to parents and considered their views.

Inspector

Tracy Hughes

Inspection findings

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

Staff support children well to actively initiate many activities themselves and play alongside them. Staff use effective questioning to skilfully develop children's own ideas and promote their thinking and communication. Children of all ages are keen to practise their early writing skills. Older children confidently write their names on their artwork and make number labels for the bikes they are riding. This prepares children well for their move to school. Staff support children to be creative and to use their imaginations. For example, children pretend to arrange holidays in the 'travel agent' role play area. They enjoy looking at travel brochures and globes, finding out about the wider world and learning about information books. Parents share and learn about their children's interests and achievements with staff. They receive progress reports and discuss future learning goals for their children.

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

Staff help children to settle well at pre-school. Children have easy access to a wide range of good-quality resources both indoors and outdoors. This helps to promote their confidence and independence well as they choose where and what they would like to play with. Children spend plenty of time outside in the fresh air, pedalling, climbing and digging. This promotes their physical development. Staff provide children with healthy, nutritious snacks. They support children's personal independence and physical skills well because they teach them to use knives safely to spread crackers and to pour their own drinks. Staff are positive role models. They encourage children to say 'please' and 'thank you', developing their social skills. Staff use the knowledge gained from training to help children learn to manage their feelings and frustrations. Consequently, children behave very well.

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

The well-qualified manager and staff work very well together and have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. All staff are familiar with the safeguarding policy and have had training to help them identify and act on any child protection issues. Staff are clear about the procedures they must follow if they have any concerns about children in their care. Management follows clear recruitment and induction procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Supervisions, appraisal meetings and regular training opportunities provide strong support to develop staff's professional development. The manager oversees the educational programmes and monitors children's achievements well to ensure all children make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY421724
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	832731
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	52
Name of provider	Busy Otters Pre School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2011
Telephone number	01404812442

Busy Otters Preschool Playgroup registered in 2011. The pre-school operates from purpose-built premises in the grounds of Ottery St Mary Primary School in the village of Ottery St Mary, Devon. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, term time only, from 9.15am to 3.15pm every day except Thursday, when it is open from 9.15am to 12.30pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free nursery education for some two-year-olds and children age three and four years. The pre-school employs 13 staff, eleven of whom work with the children, including the manager. Two staff are qualified teachers, six hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above, one at level 2 and two are unqualified.

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