

Toad Hall Pre-School

St Gabriels Church Hall, Hyde Park Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4JN



Inspection date	19 June 2015
Previous inspection date	9 March 2011

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

- Staff provide an exceptional range of high-quality learning experiences for children. As a result, children are highly motivated, extremely eager to explore and thoroughly enjoy learning.
- The quality of teaching across the pre-school is outstanding. Staff use every opportunity to enrich the curriculum and promote children's learning.
- The support that staff provide for children who need additional support is outstanding. They work strongly in partnership with outside agencies and parents to ensure that all children make the best possible progress from their starting points.
- The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children. They implement policies and safe working practices exceptionally well to support children's health, safety and well-being.
- Thorough analysis of assessment of children's progress means that staff quickly recognise gaps in children's progress and successfully address all children's learning needs.
- There are highly effective arrangements for children to become familiar with schools they will attend. This means that children become confident and self-assured about their move on to future learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to see and use words and numbers when playing outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and out.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager and looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a very strong understanding of how children learn and they expertly plan play experiences that captivate children. Children benefit from taking part in small group activities where staff introduce new ideas and focus closely on developing children's skills and learning. For example, children find information in books, and concentrate and spend long periods drawing pictures and practising writing. Staff are deployed exceptionally well and are always on hand. They skilfully encourage children to ask questions and solve problems, which helps ensure they are very well prepared for starting school. Children display extremely high confidence as they count accurately and make calculations in role play, working out how many bricks they will need to build a house. Staff promote mathematical development very well indoors, continually encouraging children to recognise numbers and shapes during play and routines. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to see and use words and numbers outside to reinforce this learning.

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

Staff form very strong, affectionate bonds with the children and know them extremely well, successfully meeting their individual needs. Children's behaviour is exemplary because staff are kind and considerate towards children. They are excellent role models, playing alongside children, encouraging sharing and cooperation. Staff work very hard to provide a rich, nurturing environment, which promotes children's independence and confidence exceptionally well. Children become very confident in planning their own activities and reviewing their progress. Staff ensure that the resources that aid exploration are easily accessible to develop and extend children's learning. As a result, children become deeply involved in activities and make excellent progress in their learning and development. Staff provide excellent opportunities for children to be creative and develop their physical skills both indoors and outdoors. Children thoroughly enjoy using instruments to tap out rhythms, and they dance and sing together as a large, happy group.

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

The manager and staff work together as an exceptionally committed and dedicated team. Extremely effective arrangements for staff supervision and sharing practice lead to a very high level of consistency of care and learning for all children. There is an extremely strong programme of professional development and staff are enthusiastic about updating their knowledge and skills. Following training, they have increased children's access to books even further by including them in all activities to extend children's communication and language skills. The excellent partnerships with parents ensure they are fully involved in children's learning, providing high consistency in all children's learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117243
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	825153
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Toad Hall Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2011
Telephone number	01752 225102 or 0771 2263412

Toad Hall Pre-School opened in the late 1960s and registered at its present premises in 1997. It is situated in a residential area two miles from Plymouth city centre. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.15am to 11.45am each morning and from 12.45 to 3.15 each afternoon. The lunch club operates from 11.45-12.45. The pre-school is in receipt of early education funding for children aged three and four years. There are 11 staff employed to work with the children, eight of whom hold early years qualifications at level 3, and one has level 2. The manager has a level 4 qualification and one member of staff has a foundation degree in early years.

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