

Major Steps Childcare

St. Columb Major Children's Centre, Newquay Road, St. Columb Major, Cornwall, TR9 6RW



Inspection date	6 May 2015
Previous inspection date	25 November 2008

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

- Support to children's personal social and emotional development is effective from the outset. Staff prepare children well for their next learning environment, so children feel very secure and progress with confidence.
- Staff provide a good range of activities throughout the well-equipped setting, to promote children's interest and development. Children learn through play because they are inquisitive and keen to take part due to staff interaction and encouragement.
- Staff are attentive to children's personal needs and take positive steps to meet their individual requirements.
- Staff use clear observation, assessment and planning procedures to identify children's stages of development and their next steps. Monitoring systems enable them to track children's progress and address any gaps in learning, helping all children to make good developmental progress.
- Staff, committee and parents effectively contribute to the self-evaluation process. They work well together to make continuous improvements and produce robust plans for further development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Support to children in the toddler area reduces at times, when staff undertake other tasks.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to encourage pre-school children to practise their writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of staff undertaking tasks, to provide consistently effective support in younger children's play activities
- increase the opportunities for pre-school children to extend their developing literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff in each of the group rooms and in their outdoor play activities.
- The inspector took account of feedback from parents and of the pre-school's self-evaluation procedure.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector checked arrangements for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

All children enjoy a variety of sensory play experiences. For instance, babies investigate flour and older children play imaginatively with bark and toy insects. Staff use resources well to attract and reflect children's interest, so activities evolve. For example, children created a dinosaur swamp in the sand tray, which they later turned into a farm. Staff enabled children to mix water with the sand, so they could make comparisons. To extend the activity, staff asked children mathematical questions to develop their understanding of numbers. Pre-school children enjoy learning and are eager to join activities, so they develop key skills. However, staff do not always encourage them to copy letters and begin to write their own name. Overall, staff engage well in children's activities to help them learn. However, there are times when more than one member of staff prepares snacks and outdoor play, which lessens attention to younger children.

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

Positive partnerships with parents and effective settling-in procedures mean children are happy. Younger children benefit from visits to the school, which enable them to become familiar with the premises in preparation for their move on to school. Babies and children develop warm attachments to staff and respond to their positive attention. Children learn good hygiene routines and behave well. They develop self-esteem and learn about difference and diversity during interesting activities. For instance, they painted self-portraits and took photographs of themselves, to compare eye and hair colour. Children plant, grow and eat vegetables, which helps them to understand about healthy food. Staff use authentic food items to create a shop and make role play more realistic, which demonstrates effective teaching skills.

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

Positive steps to address previous inspection recommendations result in improvements that support children's learning and mean there are stronger links with the school. There is an effective staff-training programme, which promotes professional development and improves practice. For example, staff have increased their support to children's communication and language development. They make good use of visual prompts to help children understand timescales and to make choices. Staff use musical instruments more effectively, to help children understand rhythms. They have reviewed their provision of resources for babies to create calming spaces and improved mealtime hygiene arrangements. Staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of the procedures to safeguard children's welfare in the event of concerns.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103002
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	839226
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	65
Number of children on roll	123
Name of provider	Major Steps Childcare Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2008
Telephone number	01637 889124

Major Steps Childcare registered in 1996 and is managed by a voluntary committee. It operates from St Columb Major Children's Centre and designated classrooms at St Columb Major Primary School. The setting is open each weekday from 7.45am until 6pm, 50 weeks of the year. There are 25 staff who work with the children, 23 of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. The manager and one member of staff hold Early Years Professional Status. The setting receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

