

Highampton Area Pre-school Group



Highampton Village Hall, Church Road, Highampton, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5LE

Inspection date	30 June 2015
Previous inspection date	20 October 2010

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

- The leadership team has a good understanding of the welfare and the learning and development requirements. The quality of teaching is good, enabling children to achieve well.
- Children benefit from caring and nurturing staff who support their emotional well-being effectively.
- Staff consistently use lots of praise for children's achievements, promoting confidence and self-esteem.
- Children benefit from activities that interest them. This helps them stay motivated and become engrossed in learning.
- Staff are good role models, which contributes to children's behaviour being very good.
- The leadership team effectively monitors children's learning and identifies areas where some children make less progress. They take effective action and adapt activities to suit children's interests. For example, introducing more practical activities to help children develop their early writing skills and gain strength in their hands.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not consistently encourage children to solve problems or carry out tasks on their own. This limits children's opportunities to think for themselves and be independent.
- Children do not have many opportunities to see and use numbers and shapes outside. This means that children who learn better outside do not have as many opportunities to extend their mathematical skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's thinking and independence skills by encouraging them to solve problems and learn from carrying out tasks by themselves
- extend children's mathematical learning outside with more opportunities to see and use numbers and shapes in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents, children and staff through discussions.
- The inspector looked at planning, observations and assessments.
- The inspector observed a range of activities, inside and outside.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

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

Staff promote children's learning well in all areas. Children enjoy a range of activities that extend their knowledge of the world around them. Following a discussion about the life cycle of a butterfly, children develop their hand-to-eye coordination as they use different tools and techniques to create their own caterpillar. They develop their early literacy skills as they look for information in books and listen to a story. Staff have accurate assessments of children's starting points and use these to plan activities to further their development. For example, staff use pictures linked to children's activities to promote their number recognition. Staff support children's individual needs by working in partnership with other professionals to provide the help they need to ensure learning improves consistently over time. Leaders have met the recommendation set at the last inspection and have improved partnerships with parents and other settings children attend. Parents are fully informed about their children's learning and how they can support it at home. This ensures that learning is consistent between home and pre-school.

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

Children play happily in a quiet and calm environment. Resources are effectively set up to encourage children to play cooperatively together. This supports children's understanding about sharing and turn taking. Staff ensure that children develop an understanding about keeping safe from the sun by encouraging them to drink frequently and play in the shade. Staff promote healthy eating by talking about fruits and vegetables. This encourages children to think about which foods are nutritious. Children are emotionally prepared for their move to school. Staff ensure that all children visit local schools regularly so they become aware of different routines. Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children from harm. They understand child protection procedures and regularly attend safeguarding training to update their knowledge.

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

The leadership team organises the pre-school well. The recruitment procedure is strong so that all adults working with children are suitable to do so. A high ratio of staff to children helps staff meet children's needs well throughout the day. Staff supervisions are regular and ways to improve practice through self-evaluation ensure children benefit from new ideas and activities. Staff work effectively with the local authority that provides guidance and relevant training. This helps staff to ensure that their knowledge is regularly updated. Staff prioritise children's safety. Alarms are fitted to the doors of the pre-school and secure fencing around the outdoor area prevents access from unauthorised persons.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106127
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	839379
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	Highampton Area Pre-School Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2010
Telephone number	07837357815

Highampton Pre-school registered in 1996 and operates from the village hall in Highampton. The pre-school is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am to 3.15pm during term time. The pre-school provides free early education for three and four-year-old children. There are five members of staff; of these, four hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 2.

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