

Hardmoor Early Years Centre



Hardmoor Early Years Centre, Leaside Way, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 3EP

Inspection date	29 June 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- There is a strong focus on children developing their communication and language skills. Quality interaction by staff who use sign language and lots of singing linked to the routine and play, enables children to make good progress and gain vital skills.
- All staff have a very secure understanding of each child's individual care needs and support them well. This includes following babies' home routines for food and sleep closely so that they receive continuity in their care.
- Each child has a key person. They fully understand their role because they receive good training on the importance of developing strong bonds with children. Consequently, they promote children's emotional well-being effectively.
- The leadership and management of the setting are good. Staff receive robust induction, supervision and monitoring to ensure they are clear on their roles and responsibilities and their practice is good.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the youngest children have their own room and resources, staff do not always make effective use of these throughout the day to fully extend their learning.
- Staff miss opportunities to fully extend and challenge children's learning during some activities they lead. Therefore, children do not always make rapid progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of space and resources to meet the learning needs of the under two-year-olds more effectively
- complete more sharply focused evaluations of activities to develop the quality of teaching further and drive inspirational practice to fully extend and challenge children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play activities, indoors and out, including some group activities, looked at the available resources and read relevant electronic documentation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy about their leadership and management, including evaluation methods and how they assess children's progress.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection, looked at parent feedback and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

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 and learning is good because staff are knowledgeable about children's learning and development. Each staff member's enthusiasm fosters a love for learning early in a child's life because they make it fun and exciting. Staff create an exciting role play area with real objects relating to their theme. Children talk excitedly about their play and dress up. They are encouraged to relate this to their experiences by staff who know them well. Children are fully engaged and motivated, making their own choices from the varied experiences on offer. They paint at the easel outdoors, use large tweezers with adult help to pick up objects, and share a favourite book with their key person. The staff have a clear understanding of the observation, assessment and planning process. They are skilled at tuning in to each child's specific needs and they offer quality, tailored support. During a well-planned snack time, staff carefully promote children's mathematical skills, alongside their communication, language and independence skills.

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

Children feel welcomed, settled and happy because of the strong emphasis on their well-being. Overall, staff provide a stimulating play space. The caring and sensitive staff team relates well to the babies and children who all show they are confident learners. Frequent, positive interaction from the staff, particularly their key person, helps children to feel safe and secure. Children are well behaved. Staff use good teaching strategies to help modify unwanted behaviour. Staff follow health and safety procedures, such as room checks, to identify and remove hazards. For example, they move a trailing telephone cable out of children's reach. There is a strong emphasis placed on nutrition and healthy eating. At lunchtime, children eat a hot meal together to promote their social skills in readiness for nursery school.

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

The competent management team ensures that everyone successfully implements robust procedures. This includes comprehensive child protection processes to safeguard children's welfare and to respond effectively to allegations against adults working with children. Management uses rigorous systems for the recruitment and vetting of staff to ensure their suitability. Recent management changes have introduced a strong ethos of self-reflective practice and drive towards improvement. Staff are well qualified and attend ongoing training to improve practice. Management effectively monitors children's progress to ensure they receive the support they need. Partnerships with parents and other agencies are strong and ensure everyone works effectively together. This successfully supports children's care and education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY319331
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	828108
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Hardmoor Early Years Centre Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02380 552 220

Hardmoor Early Years Centre is local authority run and includes a maintained nursery school, full day care and a two-year-old funded group. The centre is open from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. The centre is registered to receive funding for the provision of early years education for two, three and four-year-old children. There are 31 members of staff; of these, one member of staff holds Early Years Professional Status and three hold Qualified Teacher Status. There are four who hold qualifications at level 4, 19 who hold qualifications at level 3 and two who hold qualifications at level 2.

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