

North Dorset Children Centre Cluster, Blandford Nursery

Black Lane, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8SW



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

13 August 2015

23 February 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		Outstanding	1
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

- Staff provide a welcoming environment where children are happy and build secure and trusting relationships. Staff know children well as individuals and value their ideas.
- Staff thoughtfully arrange an extensive range of quality play equipment and resources. Therefore, children select independently to extend their own play and learning.
- Children develop high levels of independence and confidence, demonstrating competence in practical skills. This prepares them extremely well for starting school.
- Staff and management monitor children's development effectively, which enables them to identify and address any gaps in learning. As a result, children make good progress.
- Positive partnerships with parents and other professionals result in staff meeting children's needs well. Parents say that they are happy with the provision and that their children have developed greatly in confidence since attending.
- Effective self-evaluation includes the views of staff, parents and children, and leads to significant improvements in children's learning. For example, children now choose to play inside or outside according to their preferences and learning styles.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend children's thinking through effective questioning as they support their play.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to encourage children's understanding of the purpose of writing during their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to think and build on what they know during their play and adult-led activities
- extend opportunities for children to practise early writing skills during their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities inside and outside.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation, and an interview, with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, which included children's progress records.
- The inspector took account of parents' views, obtained in person.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

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

The well-qualified staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They provide a broad range of activities according to children's interests and learning priorities. For example, children have learnt about the life-cycles of frogs and butterflies, looked at books for information and noted patterns. At the inspection, children enjoyed using their senses to explore paint; they made marks using their hands and various tools. Staff joined in, motivating children's enthusiasm. They talked about what they were doing and introduced words such as 'swirling', 'stamping' and 'mixing'. Staff teach children to recognise their written name during daily routines, and provide an interesting range of books for children to choose from. Children frequently hear and use numbers during their play and daily tasks. They regularly experiment with concepts such as capacity by emptying and filling containers.

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

Management and staff make children's safety a high priority. They have a good knowledge of child protection issues and the correct procedures to follow if they have concerns. Staff regularly teach children about staying safe and involve them in risk assessing the environment. They are very skilful in helping children to manage their emotions, so that they settle and feel secure. Staff encourage children to recognise and celebrate when others are achieving. They frequently praise children, which boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Staff promote healthy lifestyles very well. Children make choices from freshly cooked meals, and enjoy fresh air and exercise every day. Staff successfully teach children about the benefits of healthy eating through discussion and planned activities.

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

Staff work well as a team, communicating effectively to keep children safe and support their learning. The recent change in management has led to positive changes that include more effective use of the rooms available. This has resulted in the provision of a dedicated area to promote children's physical development further. A change to the snack time routine means that children's play is not interrupted. Management uses various methods to assess the quality of teaching, which include regular staff supervision. Managers have introduced an additional monitoring system that enables them to identify and address gaps in learning and teaching. Staff regularly update their knowledge through training. Since attending a behaviour management course, their interaction with children has improved, enabling children to make more choices. Positive partnerships with parents include daily conversations and sharing ideas for extending children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY347338
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	835183
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	64
Name of provider	Dorset County Council
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2010
Telephone number	01258480147

North Dorset Children Centre Cluster, Blandford Nursery opened in 2007 and is run by the local authority. It operates from the children's centre in Blandford. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm throughout the year, with the exception of public holidays and a week in the summer. There is a team of 14 staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications, including five at level 5. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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

