

Southmead Saplings

Southmead Hospital, Southmead Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 5NB



Inspection date

11 August 2015

Previous inspection date

1 February 2011

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

- Experienced staff are deployed well, and the quality of teaching is good. As a result, children are eager and motivated to learn. Children are consistently achieving good standards across all areas of learning, including those whose starting points are lower than expected, and those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The nursery provides a relaxed, fun and homely environment where staff respect and value each child. Children are safe and secure because key persons understand and meet all their individual needs. Staff treat children warmly and with care at all times.
- The well-resourced and stimulating environment offers accessible resources, which challenge children of all ages. Outdoor play is a key focus. Children are confident and concentrate on their chosen play, and their behaviour is very good.
- Assessment for all children is precise and staff base planning on children's interests. With the addition of parents' contributions about their children's achievements, children benefit from good quality care and learning between home and nursery.
- Leaders and managers are committed and passionate about giving children the best start. They demonstrate a strong focus on continuous improvement. They are proactive about evaluation of all aspects of the nursery for the benefit of the children. All staff access training to keep their teaching skills and early years knowledge up to date.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The learning environment for the youngest babies does not currently offer the same level of challenge and opportunities as other parts of the nursery, and so does not extend their learning further and fully meet their comfort needs.
- Staff do not have regular contact with all settings that children attend, to ensure robust information sharing and continuity of care.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the environment for babies so they can relax, play quietly and rest, and further extend their learning experiences.
- strengthen the links with all other settings that children attend, and share information with key staff to promote consistency in children's learning and care.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children and the impact these have on children's learning in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records, staff planning, risk assessments, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector had discussions with the associate director, deputy manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks, and their qualifications.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

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

Skilled and well-qualified staff use effective teaching methods. They role-model active learning, are enthusiastic and ask children for their ideas. Children demonstrate good concentration and remain at activities until they complete them to their own satisfaction. Staff help children develop early writing skills and children enjoy making marks in shaving foam and use writing materials, such as pencils, crayons and chalks. Children explore creative activities and cooperate with each other to make games using drainpipes, and use paint and water to make pictures. Younger children pretend to be at a balloon festival and fly helicopters to save people. Staff offer suggestions and support to develop children's thinking skills. As a result, children make good progress in their communication and language skills. Staff include mathematical concepts into children's play and daily routines. Children use simple addition and subtraction at snack time. Consequently, all children are gaining the skills they need for future learning and school.

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

The nursery is safe and welcoming for children and their families. Staff find out as much as they can about the children attending. This means that all children and babies receive sensitive help to enable them to form strong relationships with their key person, staff and other children. Staff support children's emotional well-being with kind words and cuddles, and praise children's efforts, which boosts their self-esteem. Staff give children constant gentle reminders of behaviour expectations, and demonstrate good manners. Children have opportunities to be active and engage in physical play in the garden. They know why this is important and have a good understanding of why they need healthy food.

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

Management and leaders implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well. As a result of major reorganisation and refurbishment, and the well-qualified and experienced staff team working well together; the organisation of the nursery is effective. The team have a clear vision for further developments of the nursery and include the views of staff, parents and children. Effective risk assessments ensure that the premises are safe and suitable for children. The safeguarding policy relating to child protection is robust and understood by all staff. Managers ensure staff receive regular supervision and training opportunities, including first aid and how to safeguard children. Monitoring of children's progress to identify any gaps is effective. There are good working partnerships with external agencies and professionals. A strong partnership with parents is a real strength of the nursery. Parents comment that they receive excellent information on their children's activities so that they can extend their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY248911
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	847051
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	104
Name of provider	North Bristol NHS Trust
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2011
Telephone number	01173236375

Southmead Saplings day nursery registered in 2002. They operate from hospital buildings at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. North Bristol National Health Service Trust manages the nursery. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays, all year round excluding Bank Holidays. The trust employs 22 staff who work directly with the children; of these, 15 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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