

The Oak Tree Neighbourhood Nursery

Old Medical Centre, Marlborough Road, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 8JL



Inspection date 12 August 2015
Previous inspection date 27 June 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

- Children are cared for in a very welcoming and homely environment where they feel safe and secure. As a result, they engage enthusiastically in the activities provided and make good progress in their development.
- Safeguarding procedures are good. Staff know and understand their role in keeping children safe. Staff know what to do should they have any concerns about a child.
- The friendly and dedicated staff team work well together and are very responsive to meeting children's individual needs.
- Staff give high priority to forging very good partnerships with parents. This means families build trusting relationships with staff, which significantly benefits each child's ongoing care, well-being, and learning and development.
- The manager is committed to providing a high-quality service for children. She implements a systematic approach to self-evaluation and to monitoring the provision. Staff are well qualified and provided with ongoing supervision and training. They put their skills to good effect to ensure children receive consistently good learning experiences.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities for children to explore similarities and differences in rhyming words.
- Babies do not always have access to the outside environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop opportunities for children to talk and learn about rhyming words
- provide more opportunities for babies to have access to the outdoor environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children inside and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff and the manager at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation including the self-evaluation, policies, staff suitability checks and children's learning journeys.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is effective and, as a result, children make good progress in their learning. The nursery is well organised, and provides children with a welcoming environment in which to learn and develop. Staff are adept at identifying gaps in children's progress and plan fun activities to help them develop further. Babies are curious and inquisitive learners, exploring paint and musical instruments. They eagerly watch what is happening around them and smile and babble with excitement when interacting with staff. Older children are confident to join in conversations, such as talking to their friends about what they are drawing and writing. Key persons regularly assess children's progress so that they know children's skills and abilities. As a result, staff motivate and challenge children well to independently complete tasks, for example, using scissors unaided for the first time. Staff take opportunities throughout the day to encourage children's counting and name and colour recognition, and successfully weave these concepts into children's play.

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

Staff have good relationships with children. They use settling-in visits and regular discussions with parents to find out about children's individual care needs. Staff skilfully incorporate children's individual routines into the nursery day. This provides continuity for children, which means they are happy and settled. Staff work closely with local schools to ensure children's smooth move into their future learning. Staff talk to children about what to expect so that they embrace starting school with confidence. Staff provide a safe and clean environment for children's play. Children practise good hygiene routines and develop good self-care skills. Children experience many activities that encourage them to talk about safety, risk and danger. For example, they learn to take risks and balance on equipment in the garden, which also supports their physical development. Children play cooperatively with their friends, and during games they listen to others, share and take turns.

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

Staff consistently assess children's progress, plan for next steps and systematically track their individual learning and development. The manager monitors children's development and has an overview of the progress of each individual child as well as groups of children. Staff work successfully with a wide range of professionals to support children's individual needs. The manager displays thorough competency in her knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and ensures that staff fully understand and implement them. Parents speak very highly of the staff and the experiences their children have. Effective management results in the recommendations raised at the inspection being addressed well to improve children's literacy and communication skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY279877
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	833524
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Date of previous inspection	27 June 2011
Telephone number	01271 865334

The Oak Tree Neighbourhood Nursery registered in 2004 and is managed by the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA). It is located near the centre of Ilfracombe in Devon. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery welcomes children in receipt of free early education for two, three, and four year olds. The manager is qualified to level 3 in childcare and has higher level qualifications in leadership and management. In addition, the setting employs 14 staff who work directly with the children, of whom 13 are qualified at level 3 or above. Bank staff are available to provide cover.

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