

Ottertots Day Care Nursery

East Hill, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, EX11 1QH



Inspection date	19 August 2015
Previous inspection date	18 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff plan an extensive variety of play experiences that challenge, inspire and capture children's interests. As a result, all children make rapid progress and staff ensure they are fully prepared for the next stage in their education.
- The key-person system is exceptional. Children develop close, trusting attachments to their key person through the highly effective settling-in procedures. This helps them to form positive relationships and gain confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. They actively promote children's safety and welfare through the rigorous implementation of meticulous policies and procedures.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Staff speak with parents on a regular basis about the progress that their children are making. Staff provide parents with ideas of how to support their children's learning at home. This contributes positively to the two-way exchange of information and means that children benefit from consistent support in their learning.
- An extremely effective programme of professional development always focuses on raising the quality of teaching for the children. This means that teaching is continually improving to ensure all children's experiences are of the highest quality.
- The highly-qualified and experienced staff work well together, which means the organisation of the nursery, is excellent. Staff provide a relaxed, fun and homely environment where each child is respected and valued.
- There is a strong ethos of continuous improvement across the setting involving children, staff and parents.

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 learn about the weather.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching and interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector spoke with staff and the owners.
- The inspector sampled documentation including staff suitability checks, policies and procedures and children's learning records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the owners.
- The inspector spoke with 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 outstanding

Children make outstanding progress because teaching is consistently of a very high standard. Staff use accurate assessments taken from detailed observations to plan precisely for children's next steps in learning. Staff are highly skilled in providing a superb balance of adult-led and activities children choose themselves. Staff engage and enthuse children in their play and learning. However, occasionally staff miss opportunities to extend children's understanding of the weather. Staff actively follow children's interests. They provide children with highly stimulating and creative activities that promote their mathematical and language development, and imaginative skills. For example, using the children's interest in volcanoes, staff encourage them to draw and discuss the shape of volcanoes. Staff skilfully ask purposeful questions and challenge children's thinking as they extend their language using rhyming words and bring learning to life using puppets.

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

Staff are exceptionally caring and provide a warm, welcoming environment that supports children's emotional well-being. Children are extremely happy, confident and self-assured learners. They are cooperative, helpful and their behaviour is very good. Staff are highly skilled in keeping all children focused on activities. They use daily routines very well to consolidate and extend children's learning and to promote their independence. Babies persevere with learning to work out how things work, such as pop-up toys. The vibrant, stimulating, challenging soft play area supports children's physical development extremely well. This also helps children learn how to assess risk and keep themselves safe as they look for dangers as they climb up the equipment and use the slides.

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

The owners and all staff have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The owners hold regular staff meetings and appraisals to help to identify areas for professional development. In addition, they observe the quality of staff teaching skills in a variety of ways and gives constructive feedback for improvement. The owners work with staff to swiftly identify any gaps in areas of learning and actively take steps to close them quickly. The owners are constantly reviewing ways to ensure that exceptional practice is consistent throughout the nursery. For example, they identified that staff training in forest school activities would enhance children's all round development. Staff have attended training and there are now plans to embed this in practice. Parents speak very highly of their children's care and learning. They value the daily contact they have with staff and parents' evenings where they have opportunities to discuss their children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY358746
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	827713
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	149
Name of provider	Ottertots Limited
Date of previous inspection	18 August 2011
Telephone number	01404 815854

Ottertots Day Care Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery is on the outskirts of Ottery St. Mary, Devon. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm all year round, excluding bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 24 staff; of these, two staff hold Qualified Teacher Status and 17 staff hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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