

Apple Blossom Day Nursery



Apple Blossom Day Nursery, London Road, Strete Raleigh, Whimble, EXETER, EX5 2PT

Inspection date	15 September 2015
Previous inspection date	15 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The owner has successfully improved many aspects of the nursery. They have implemented robust systems for monitoring the quality of teaching and assessment of children's progress. Staff continue to improve their practice through accessing good training opportunities and receiving ongoing coaching.
- Children enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff use observations and assessments to provide activities which are both challenging and enjoyable.
- Children are safe, secure and happy in the setting. They settle in quickly as they arrive because staff reassure them and their parents, as they separate from each other. This means that parents leave feeling confident that their children's well-being is fully met by the high level of care that staff provide.
- Parents are complimentary about the nursery. They receive regular feedback about the activities that their children have participated in and the progress they make.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not always notice and pick up the signs and cues from the younger children to fully establish early communication and support children's developing language and social skills.
- The organisation of daily routines means that children are left waiting for the next activity for periods of time during the day.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve all staff's awareness of identifying and responding to young children's early communication signals to consistently promote children's emerging language and fully support their emotional development
- review the organisation of daily routines so that children are not kept waiting for long periods between activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with the owner, assistant manager and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation including policies, staff suitability checks and children's learning records.
- The inspector reviewed the setting's self-evaluation and discussed action plans with the owner.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The owner has successfully addressed the actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection and fully meets all the requirements. The owner and staff have updated their child protection training and have a good understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe. Safeguarding is effective. The owner observes staff to monitor their teaching and performance, and to identify the strengths and areas for development. She takes suitable action, such as restructuring the room for the younger children. There have been a number of staff changes, but the owner has worked hard to maintain consistency. Staff are well qualified and say that they are supported well through supervision and training to reflect on their practice. For example, staff now use more counting and numbers in children's play. The owner checks that adults working with children are suitable and makes sure that recruitment and induction processes are robust. Parents spoken to at inspection said that they were happy with their children's care and felt well informed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff successfully observe, plan, assess and monitor children's learning and development. They engage in children's play and use spontaneous opportunities to develop children's learning and understanding, for example, involving mathematics by questioning children to identify if they need more or less bricks to finish their building. Staff sensitively support older children's communication skills by talking to them about what they are doing. This helps children to be highly motivated and engaged while they enjoy playing and learning. Staff support babies' interest in books and songs, using puppets to involve them in the story. Children are inquisitive and ask questions, and are confident to test out their ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff gather information about children's routines and preferences and use this to help them to settle. Children build firm relationships and form secure attachments. Children understand the staff's high expectations and respond positively to the opportunities provided to develop their independence. This helps to build children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff are good role models. They use positive praise and gentle guidance to support children in gaining good social skills and learning how to be kind to others. Children enjoy opportunities to be active, and eat healthy snacks and meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress as they reach typical levels of development for their age. Children are inquisitive, independent learners and concentrate well during their play. They gain the skills needed to be ready for the next stage in their learning, including the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105825
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1013479
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Karen Irene Winson
Date of previous inspection	15 April 2015
Telephone number	01404 822251

Apple Blossom Day Nursery registered in 2000. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.45am to 6pm, all year round, except for one week in December. A team of nine staff, including the manager, care for the children. The manager, who owns the setting, holds a relevant level 3 qualification in childcare and a level 5 qualification in management. Six of the other staff hold relevant level 3 qualifications and two are unqualified.

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