

Smarties Pre School

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5DB



Inspection date	15 October 2015
Previous inspection date	15 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 manager and staff work very well together as a team. Staff have confidence in the management and enthusiastically attend training, improve their qualifications and reflect on their practice. This all helps to maintain good standards and influence children's outcomes.
- Staff plan and monitor children's learning effectively in partnership with parents and the other settings children attend. This consistency helps children make good progress in relation to their starting points when they first attend.
- Staff have a good understanding of the procedure to follow if they have a safeguarding concern. They attend training and share knowledge and awareness of safeguarding strategies at regular staff meetings. All staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.
- Children develop emotional bonds and trusting relationships with staff, and these relationships help children develop self-esteem and confidence. This motivates their learning and preparation for starting school or attending other settings.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The structure of group learning time does not always hold children's attention and help them to fully engage in the learning opportunities.
- The room is somewhat busy and noisy and this sometimes makes the environment overwhelming for quieter children. It is sometimes difficult to find space to play, therefore affecting their capacity to engage.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- organise group times to ensure that all children focus and engage in the intended learning
- review the organisation of the learning environment to enable children to move around more freely and play in a calmer, less busy space.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with a play leader.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents from questionnaire evidence and discussion.
- The inspector sampled a range of paperwork including risk assessments, policies, children's learning journals, the self-evaluation document and suitability paperwork.
- The inspector discussed the provision with the children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Shirelle Norris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

There are effective self-evaluation methods in place, which allow the staff to reflect on what is going well. Staff meet regularly to evaluate the provision and plan for further improvements. They gather the parents' thoughts and views through questionnaires. Parents' responses feed into their evaluation so that the improvements are relevant. Supervision and annual appraisals ensure ongoing suitability and help to identify any training needs. Robust policies are in line with the welfare requirements. Safeguarding is effective. Staff plan, observe and assess children's development effectively. This means that activities are appropriate and offer suitable levels of challenge. The manager monitors this effectively by checking children's learning profiles and tracking the progress of all children, which is good. Links with other settings and professionals help to ensure that there is consistency for all.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is consistently good. Children lead many of the chosen activities themselves. They select what they want to play with from the wide range of easily available resources. This contributes to developing children's independence and confidence. Children competently use the computers and operate them effectively to help them to learn about technology. Children learn to express themselves and to use their creative skills as they paint pictures. There are many opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills and practise their early reading and writing. This effectively boosts their self-esteem and helps them to develop a good understanding of sounds and letters.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming and safe environment for all the children. The key-person approach helps to promote children's well-being. Staff know the children and their individual routines extremely well, and they are very kind, caring and supportive; this helps children to form secure attachments. Staff promote a healthy lifestyle and are good role models to children. They sit with them during snack times, talking to them about the benefits of healthy eating. Children benefit from daily outdoor play and many opportunities to be physically active, thus promoting good health.

Outcomes for children are good

Children have opportunities to learn about difference and disabled people in their everyday routines as they have fun with activities and exciting resources. They learn to identify with the wider world and to respect each other, giving them a good grounding for the future.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141007
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	841455
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Angela Lesley Morris
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2010
Telephone number	01305 816421

Smarties Pre-School registered in 1998. It operates from a hall adjacent to Dorchester Road Methodist church, in the Broadwey area of Weymouth, Dorset. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with a lunch club facility from 12.00 noon until 12.30pm. Sessions on Wednesdays run from 9am until 12 noon, with a lunch club from 12 noon until 1pm. There are 11 staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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