

Mousehole Mice

Mousehole CP School, Foxes Lane, Mousehole, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6QQ



Inspection date 21 October 2015
Previous inspection date 14 July 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

- Staff use their knowledge of individual children and their families sensitively to support children, providing a safe and secure environment for them.
- Safeguarding is a high priority of the staff. They teach children about different sorts of risks and support children in managing them.
- Effective monitoring and support for staff by the manager and the committee enable them to develop their practice well.
- Staff challenge children through their skilful questioning and interactions, which supports children's learning.
- Effective assessment systems enable the staff to identify any children needing additional support and to work effectively with parents and other agencies to help these children catch up with their friends.
- The effective organisation of the outdoor play area provides a stimulating learning environment where children are able to explore and learn about the world while benefiting from the fresh air.
- The close links with the school strongly support children's progression into school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to support young children fully in learning how to share toys and resources.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further ways to support young children in sharing resources and to reinforce expectations of behaviour.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outdoor play area.
- The inspector held discussions with the chairperson and staff, including the manager.
- The inspector checked documents relating to the suitability and qualifications of the staff.
- The inspector sampled documentation regarding planning and children's progress.

Inspector

Lynne Bowden

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and committee are knowledgeable about the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager plans and monitors continuous improvements to the setting, including the improvements to outdoor learning and in recording children's progress. The committee encourages staff training and supports the manager in her monitoring and promotion of staff development. Staff make effective use of their experience and training. They promote children's communication well and provide effective learning environments. Safeguarding is effective. All staff attend regular safeguarding training. They ensure that resources are safe. The manager conscientiously monitors the accuracy and effectiveness of assessments and planning. She analyses overall progress records, using this information to identify and address any gaps in the curriculum.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their knowledge of individual children to plan activities that interest children and support their next steps. There is a good balance between activities that adults lead and ones that children choose themselves. Staff plan activities to extend children's language and build on their curiosity. For instance, staff introduced new vocabulary and encouraged children's ideas as they prepared and described the flesh and seeds of a pumpkin lantern. Staff followed children's suggestion to plant the seeds, and reinforced their understanding by asking questions that required more than just a 'yes' or 'no' answer. For example, they asked children what the seeds needed in order to grow. Staff skilfully promote children's mathematical understanding; they encourage children to use positional language and to compare weight and size. Early identification of any delays enables staff and parents to help children overcome problems. Staff work closely with other professionals so that consistent learning experiences help children reach their full potential.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children access and explore toys and resources with increasing confidence. The staff give children individual attention and reassurance, adapting activities in order to meet their needs. The staff praise and celebrate children's achievements and positive behaviour so that they learn the benefits of behaving well. However, on occasion, staff do not fully support young children in learning how to take turns with the toys. The staff teach and model good hygiene practices and teach children about the benefits of nutritious foods.

Outcomes for children are good

Children all make good progress from their starting points. They learn to manage their own care needs, taking themselves to the toilet and dressing themselves for outdoor play. Children begin to develop good early literacy skills and to listen with interest and attention to instructions from adults. These skills prepare them well for future learning in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY245130
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	837164
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	Mousehole Community Childcare Association Committee
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2010
Telephone number	01736 731427

Mousehole Mice registered in 2002. It is a committee run group and operates from rooms within Mousehole School, in the coastal village of Mousehole, near Penzance, in Cornwall. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am until 3pm during term times only. It provides funded nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs four staff; all hold early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including the manager who has Qualified Teacher Status.

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