

Country Garden Day Nursery

Uplands, Dunkerton, Bath, BA2 8BR



Inspection date

27 October 2015

Previous inspection date

21 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not have fully effective recruitment systems. Although the manager carries out Disclosure and Barring Service checks for new staff, she does not seek references or other information about staff's suitability as required.
- The manager has not made sure staff are aware of their responsibility to notify her of any significant event that may affect their suitability to work with children.
- Adults lead most of the creative activities. Children do not have sufficient opportunities to express themselves freely and explore a variety of materials independently.
- The manager does not reflect effectively on practice to identify areas for improvement or to involve staff, parents and children in the process.

It has the following strengths

- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are complimentary about the nursery and comment that children are happy to attend.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children develop. Staff have high expectations for children and they make good progress in their learning.
- The manager implements an effective key-person system to help ensure children develop a sense of belonging and feel safe and secure. Children seek out their key person for support and comfort. Children are confident and eager to learn.
- Staff interact positively with children. They ask questions that invite children to think and respond with their ideas. Children take part in conversation; they listen and take turns, and learn to recognise and understand how others are feeling.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ develop and implement effective recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of any persons caring for, or in regular contact with children	11/11/2015
■ ensure staff know that they must notify the manager of anything that may affect their suitability to work with children.	11/11/2015

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

- extend opportunities for children to express their own creative ideas
- strengthen evaluation to identify areas for improvement and involve staff, parents and children in the process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interaction with children throughout the nursery and outside play areas.
- The inspector spoke to staff to gather their knowledge about their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including children's development records, staff suitability checks and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Linda Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures. They know the signs that may give them concern for a child's welfare. They understand their responsibility to report any concerns to protect children from harm. However, there are weaknesses in the manager's recruiting procedures. She does not monitor the on-going suitability of staff effectively. Although she carries out Disclosure and Barring Service checks, she does not always ask for references or seek other vetting information to fully ensure the suitability of staff. The manager and staff are a well-qualified team and the quality of teaching is good. The manager monitors children's progress using the staff's thorough assessments of children's learning, but is not as effective at reflecting on the quality of the provision overall.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their assessments to ensure all children move on quickly to their next step in development. Staff know their key children well. They have effective partnerships with their children's parents and share information with them, and other staff members, to promote continuity in children's early education. Staff identify clearly each child's stage of development and the focus for their next steps, and plan effectively for their learning. Staff make very good use of stories to teach children a range of skills to promote their learning. For example, children contributed to the storyline using their imagination and learnt mathematical skills, such as counting, shape and size.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Some weaknesses in leadership mean the manager does not promote children's welfare fully. Nonetheless, staff organise a wide range of resources to provide a very stimulating play environment, which is safe and welcoming. Staff teach children about good behaviour, and rules. They implement rules consistently and help children to share and take turns. Staff develop children's confidence. For example, children happily contribute their own ideas and imagination. Children develop a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Staff encourage children to consider their safety, for example, staff reminding them to be careful when climbing on equipment in case they stumble. Children develop good independence. For example, they take special responsibility to lay the table for snack and learn how to take care of their bodies. Staff provide an interesting range of activities outdoors that contribute to children's physical well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They confidently follow routines, simple instructions and make requests for what they want. Children requiring additional help receive effective support to make good progress from their starting points. Overall, children gain a good range of skills that prepare them well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360366
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	827737
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	69
Name of provider	Donna Elvira Hunt
Date of previous inspection	21 October 2011
Telephone number	01761 433 636

Country Garden Day Nursery registered in 2007. It is situated in the village of Dunkerton, Bath, North East Somerset. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 5.30pm all year. The provider employs 17 staff; of these, 16 staff hold early years qualifications. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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