

Highwoods Early Years Centre



Highwoods Road, Mexborough, South Yorkshire, S64 9ES

Inspection date

6 January 2016

Previous inspection date

4 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- Partnerships with parents are very strong. They are kept up to date with their children's progress through termly reviews and comprehensive learning journals. Assessments of children's current progress are robust. All children make good progress based on their starting points.
- The quality of teaching is consistently good. The manager and staff are well qualified and use their knowledge of how children learn to plan an excellent range of high-quality learning experiences, tailored to their individual needs.
- Staff provide exciting and very well-resourced indoor and outdoor environments that effectively promote children's learning. Great consideration has been given to the space to keep children interested and they explore and investigate with confidence.
- Staff use additional funding carefully and skilfully direct their teaching to support all children to achieve their next steps in learning. All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, develop a strong sense of belonging in the child-focused environment.
- Staff have established good links with the adjoining primary school. They understand the importance of working closely with teachers to support children's move on to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make use of opportunities to further promote children's good progress in learning new words.
- Staff do not give children many opportunities to learn to think critically for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to extend children's vocabulary and introduce them to new words
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their critical-thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector took account of the views of a selection of parents spoken with on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, the register of attendance and a range of other documentation, including suitability of staff working in the provision.

Inspector

Catherine Mather

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has successfully implemented targeted plans to drive improvement. She seeks the views of staff, parents and children. Parents have frequent opportunities to comment on their child's progress. They contribute to the setting's improvement plan by completing regular questionnaires. The manager has developed a high-quality service for children and has created an effective staff team. She implements a systematic approach to monitoring the provision. Regular supervisions are carried out which help to support the professional development of staff. Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities should they have a concern about a child in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Precise observations, assessments and planning for individual children help ensure that they make good progress towards the early learning goals. Any need for early intervention is promptly identified. Great care is taken to make sure that all checks staff make on children's progress are accurate. These checks are shared with parents on a regular basis. Furthermore, staff provide parents with activity ideas that they can use to extend their children's learning at home. Children enjoy a range of stories and skilfully use puppets to act out the songs they sing. Children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted time to experiment and play. This helps them to remain focussed and develop their interests during activities. Staff ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. For example, children thoroughly enjoy filling pipes with water and sand as they act out familiar nursery rhymes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Settling-in arrangements are flexible to meet children's individual needs and parents' wishes. On arrival, children find their peg, hang their coats and quickly become involved in an activity. As part of everyday routines, children are taught to be polite, listen to others, share and take turns. Healthy lifestyles are well promoted. Staff encourage children to follow good hygiene procedures and ensure they have daily opportunities to be physically active outdoors. Children choose when to have their snack throughout the session and help to tidy away when they have finished. This helps develop children's confidence and independence and prepares them well for starting school. Staff are good role models. They teach children to be tolerant. Children are well behaved.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff effectively assess children's learning and are quick to recognise and meet their additional needs and close gaps in development. Targeted interventions are secured and all children make good progress from their starting points. They learn key skills, such as concentration and confidence in a group, to prepare them well for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	318094
Local authority	Doncaster
Inspection number	1028735
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Highwood's Early Years Centre Committee
Date of previous inspection	4 July 2013
Telephone number	01709 587327

Highwoods Early Years Centre was registered in 1992. The centre employs four members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or level 5. The centre opens from Monday to Friday, term time. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. The centre provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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