

Little Swans Pre-School

School Bungalow, First Avenue, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9RA



Inspection date	29 February 2016
Previous inspection date	2 February 2010

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Excellent leadership ensures all staff follow robust procedures to give the highest priority to safeguarding children. Staff are extremely knowledgeable about how to protect children in a very secure environment.
- Regular training helps staff use their skills and talents very well to improve children's learning. For example, language development training has greatly improved how staff encourage children's communication and has a superb impact on their learning and excellent progress.
- The manager provides excellent opportunities for staff to share their outstanding practice with each other and with other early years providers. The manager and committee very effectively lead and monitor the quality of teaching through regular observations of staff practice, which leads to highly consistent reflection of their excellent practice.
- The extremely inclusive environment, resources and range of activities on offer to support children's understanding of the world are exemplary, helping children to show very high regard and respect for each other.
- Relationships between staff and children are extremely strong. Staff work very closely with parents to prioritise children's emotional and physical well-being. The incredibly strong partnerships with parents help to forge a very strong sense of community.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to learn more about each other's similarities and differences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed children during play inside and outside.
- The inspector sampled a wide range of paperwork, including risk assessments, policies and procedures, children's learning journals and the self-evaluation document.
- The inspector discussed the provision with the staff, manager, the parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector discussed the provision with the committee chairperson and her role within the setting.

Inspector

Shirelle Norris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The management team is highly effective and skilled in maintaining extremely high standards. Staff share this vision and each reflect and evaluate on a continual basis. Parents' views and children's views are especially important and this effectively contributes to the evaluation process. Tracking of children's progress is very accurate and robust, to help provide excellent learning opportunities based on children's individual needs. The manager uses her excellent knowledge, skills and expertise to guide and continually develop staff skills. Safeguarding is effective. Staff check all areas of the environment rigorously for potential hazards to minimise risks to children. The management team and staff are very clear on child protection issues and procedures to follow.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

All staff provide children with excellent opportunities to extend their vocabulary and do this with excellent insight of each child's capability. This instinctive and genuine interest in each child's development helps children to flourish. Children participate in highly challenging activities that staff plan to capture their imagination and interests, for example, they set up very well equipped role-play areas based on children's requests. Staff extend children's understanding and language very well during their pretend play, helping children to act out new roles. Staff work very well with families and other professionals to meet children's individual needs. Precise, targeted small-group activities help to ensure all children reach their full learning potential, particularly in their language and mathematical development. Staff very successfully engage children in conversations about different occupations, helping them to learn about different ways of life. Opportunities to celebrate the children's different languages are not as effective.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide a highly inspiring learning environment where children have very high confidence, self-esteem and an eagerness to learn. They show a great sense of pride in their achievements and have immense self-worth. Children behave impeccably and follow the excellent examples set by staff to work extremely well with others. Children's understanding of healthy lifestyles is excellent.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy their learning and have excellent attachments with key staff, developing very strong emotional security. They are very curious and inquisitive learners, and take part in extremely wide ranging, stimulating activities that give them ideal opportunities to gain strong skills for moving on to school. Children are extremely confident communicators. They embrace new challenges to develop an excellent mathematical understanding of calculation and simple division.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315587
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	827250
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 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Little Swans Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	2 February 2010
Telephone number	01626 888709

Little Swans Pre-School registered in 1997 and is managed by a voluntary committee of parents. It operates within the grounds of Westcliff School in Dawlish, Devon. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. There are five members of staff, who all hold level 3 early years qualifications. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years.

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