

Little Otters Pre-School

East Budleigh Village Hall, Wynards Road, East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon,
EX9 7DU



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

21 March 2016

6 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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

- The quality of teaching is good. The well-qualified staff team engages children in purposeful learning experiences, which supports their individual needs and interests. Children are keen learners who make good progress.
- Children enjoy their time at this stimulating and nurturing pre-school. They form strong attachments with caring staff, promoting their emotional well-being. The effective key-person system helps children to settle quickly and easily.
- Partnerships with parents and other settings are strong. Managers use effective systems to share information about children's care and learning, to promote a fully joined-up approach to children's development.
- Leadership and management are strong. The management team evaluates the quality of the provision effectively, to recognise strengths and identify areas for improvement. There is a low turnover of staff and they work well as a team. Staff frequently share ideas, to develop planning and to raise the standards of the provision still further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children are developing good early mathematics skills, staff occasionally miss opportunities for them to explore number problems.
- On occasion, staff do not fully support all children to manage their own behaviour within the boundaries and behavioural expectations of the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to explore number problems, to strengthen their good early mathematical understanding even further
- strengthen further children's awareness of the boundaries and behavioural expectations in the setting, to provide even more support for all children to learn to manage their own behaviour.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, the manager and the chair of the committee.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff qualification certificates, policies and children's records.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation documents.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their feedback on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child's welfare. Staff have a wealth of experience. They receive support from the management and have regular training opportunities and support, to help them to expand their knowledge. Staff regularly evaluate the service they provide, and they take into account the views of parents, to make further improvements. There is a great sense of community. Staff help children to understand that other people may have different ideas and ways of doing things, and why it is important to treat others with respect. The management team monitors children's development by looking at individual needs and the needs of different groups of children. This means they are able to identify and address any gaps in children's learning quickly, to support their progress and help them catch up if they need to.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make regular observations of children as they play, in order to assess their needs, interests and abilities, and track their progress. Staff plan a challenging range of activities which match children's interests and support their next steps in learning. Staff use very good teaching techniques as they join in with children's play, to guide and support their learning. For example, staff introduce new language and invite children to explore new ideas and resources. Children access resources with enthusiasm and are active learners. Strong partnerships are in place with parents, who are fully involved in contributing to their children's assessments and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form close relationships with staff and are keen to involve them in their play. Staff put a great emphasis on developing children's confidence and self-esteem. Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air. They delight in moving about freely and making choices about their play. Staff promote children's good health and well-being effectively. They teach children about how to keep themselves and others safe, as they move indoors and outdoors and handle tools and equipment. Staff help children to become aware of healthy lifestyles through a range of daily activities and experiences. For example, children make decisions about selecting healthy food at snack time, and they talk about why it is good for them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. Children learn the key skills they will need for future learning and are well prepared for starting school. All children develop early literacy skills and a love of books. For example, older children confidently sound-out letters, matching them to words. They also develop good early mathematics skills, such as being able to count and identify simple shapes. All children become active, confident learners who are willing to try new things.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105992
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1014659
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	Little Otters Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2015
Telephone number	01395 445825

Little Otters Pre-School registered in 1994. It is a committee-run group that operates from the village hall in East Budleigh, East Devon. The pre-school is open during term time only. Sessions run from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9.15am to 12.45pm on Tuesday and Thursday. The pre-school provides free early years education for children aged three and four years. A total of six members of staff are employed to work with the children, five of whom hold relevant early years qualifications to at least level 3.

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