

Elestar Services Ltd T/A Flying Start Nursery

35 Bell Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8AE



Inspection date

6 April 2016

Previous inspection date

28 July 2015

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

- Children thoroughly enjoy a wide range of interesting and challenging activities. Enthusiastic and experienced staff encourage children to think for themselves and try out ideas, which helps them to become creative, independent learners. Children make good progress in their learning.
- Caring and attentive staff form close relationships with the children and meet their individual needs well. Children are safe, happy and confident.
- The management team and staff work closely with other professionals involved in the children's care and learning. This helps them to provide targeted additional support to children with specific, identified needs, so they achieve well.
- The management team has worked hard to address the weaknesses raised at the last inspection. The team monitors the quality of the provision well and continues to make further improvements, to build on the high quality of care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the management team monitors individual children's progress well, it does not compare the progress of different groups of children, in order to identify patterns and gaps in achievement and focus teaching more sharply.
- Children enjoy simple computer programs to support their learning; however, there are few opportunities for them to learn about information technology more widely.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the monitoring system to identify gaps in achievement between different groups of children, such as boys, girls or those receiving additional funding, to help focus teaching more sharply
- provide more opportunities for children to learn about information technology.

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 discussed with the manager how she monitors the quality of teaching and care. They also discussed arrangements for staff supervision and professional development, and the nursery's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector sampled documentation including policies and procedures, risk assessments and accident records, and children's developmental and personal records.
- The inspector took account of parents' written comments and the views of several parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation of an activity with the manager.

Inspector

Rachel Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team supports staff well to share their knowledge and skills gained from training to strengthen each other's practice. The management team makes good use of additional funding to provide challenging activities that support children's mathematical skills well. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff understand their responsibility to protect children from harm and the procedures to follow should they have a concern. Robust recruitment procedures help to ensure staff suitability and maintain good staff qualification levels. Strong links with schools help staff prepare children very well for moving on, such as getting children ready for early reading.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's speech and communication especially well. For example, they use sign language and personalised picture cards to help the youngest children and those who need extra support. Toddlers copy staff's gestures and words, and enthusiastically move to action rhymes. Pre-school aged children show a keen interest in books, and staff tell stories imaginatively using movements and props that capture children's interest, fire their imaginations and develop their strength and coordination. Staff support toddlers well to explore the textures of foam, sand and mud. Staff encourage older children to solve problems, such as how to stop paper flapping when painting outside on a windy day. Children show great satisfaction in finding their own solutions. Exciting projects like hatching frogspawn give children plenty to talk about and help them understand nature.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather detailed information from parents about children's needs and abilities, to help them meet children's individual needs well, especially the youngest children. Staff work well with parents to share information between home and the nursery to support children's learning and sense of belonging and security. The youngest children explore their environment and activities with interest. Older children are highly independent and learn to do things for themselves. Children behave well. From a young age, they learn to share and take turns. Pre-school children listen carefully to instructions and learn to manage small risks, such as building and climbing safely over obstacles. All children enjoy healthy meals and regular outdoor play to help them stay active and healthy.

Outcomes for children are good

Pre-school children are confident, independent and self-motivated learners who are keen to try out their own ideas. They acquire the key skills, knowledge and attitudes that prepare them well for starting school. Younger children show interest in their learning, and explore and investigate. They enjoy creative activities using different materials. All children develop good social and emotional security to support them for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344676
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1023189
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	98
Name of provider	Elestar Services Limited
Date of previous inspection	28 July 2015
Telephone number	01747 852666

Elestar Services Ltd T/A Flying Start Nursery registered under the current ownership in 2006. It operates from premises in the town centre of Shaftesbury, Dorset. The nursery is in receipt of government funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm all year, with the exception of public holidays and two weeks at Christmas. The nursery employs 20 staff. The manager and deputy both hold Early Years Professional Status, 15 staff have a level 3 early years qualification, one has a level 2, and two staff are unqualified.

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