

The Old Potting Shed

Coombe Lodge, Blagdon, North Somerset, BS40 7RE



Inspection date

14 April 2016

Previous inspection date

22 October 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

- The management team and staff's knowledge of safeguarding procedures is good. They have a secure understanding of their responsibility to report any concerns they may have about children. Children's safety is a priority.
- The manager provides effective support and guidance for staff to update their training. Professional development influences the quality of teaching well. Staff use the knowledge they gain from training to plan more effectively and extend children's thinking.
- Staff use opportunities well to extend children's knowledge and exploration, helping them to develop a good understanding of how things work. Children make good progress, which supports them well for starting school.
- Strong partnerships with parents and other professionals mean that support for children is comprehensive. Staff have effective relationships with other early years providers and agencies, which adds to the support for children and their families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The current storage arrangements for resources do not effectively allow children to make informed choices about what they want to play with.
- There are not enough opportunities for children to learn about technology and operate simple equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to see and make choices about the resources they want play with
- help children to learn and understand about technology and how to operate simple equipment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children during play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector discussed the provision with the staff and the manager at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a broad range of paperwork including policies and procedures, self-evaluation, children's files, risk assessments and suitability documents.
- The inspector gathered the views of parents from questionnaires and comments made in children's files.

Inspector

Shirelle Norris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team efficiently monitors the robust safeguarding arrangements for staff recruitment, induction and their ongoing support. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and senior staff analyse information about the progress of individuals and groups of children well, which supports them in providing effective interventions to close any identified gaps in children's learning. This helps to ensure that all children make good progress. The manager carries out regular observations of staff practice. She gives supportive feedback to help staff improve outcomes for children. There are two qualified teachers, who share their expertise and work with staff to improve their skills. This has helped the setting to make good improvements since the last inspection.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well. They closely observe and take into account each child's stage of development effectively. They use information to inform development reviews and children's learning needs with significant and achievable targets. Staff support children's learning well. They encourage children to listen to stories. Children join in enthusiastically with their ideas and the sequence of events. Staff encourage children to notice changes and observe what happens to the weather during seasons and how this affects the garden. They engage them in conversations about how certain trees change colour and what flowers are growing. Children learn about the world around them and develop an interest in mathematics. Staff teach them to count, recognise colours and compare size when outdoors. Staff interact positively with children and, overall, support their learning well across the areas of learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

All children have solid and strong attachments with their key person. This contributes effectively to children's emotional security, confidence and achievements. Staff support children well throughout the setting to manage their personal care needs when they are ready. During varied activities, such as lunchtimes, children have opportunities to explore different fruits and vegetables, and learn about the importance of healthy eating. Children enjoy the outdoor areas. The youngest ones have areas to climb and crawl, and develop their emerging physical abilities and skills. Older children have adventures in the ample grounds, where they are physically active and explore.

Outcomes for children are good

Children socialise well with others and behave well. They learn to listen, follow routines and respect the views of others. Older children develop good language and literacy skills, which prepares them well for future learning. Younger children develop good confidence and motivation to explore and be curious learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433944
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	1028325
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Home from School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	22 October 2013
Telephone number	07777 692115

The Old Potting Shed registered in 2011. It is privately owned by Home from School Ltd. The joint owner/managers run the nursery, which operates from the 'Old Potting Shed' and 'The Stables' within the grounds of Coombe Lodge, in Blagdon, North Somerset. The setting is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. A holiday club operates during school holiday times. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The owner and manager alongside the deputy have Qualified Teacher Status, and nine other members of staff are employed, of whom all have early years qualifications at level 2 or above.

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