

Puffins in the City

Puffins at Southernhay, Keble House, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, EX1 1NT



Inspection date	15 April 2016
Previous inspection date	12 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- The leadership team has an exceptional drive to maintain very high standards. Leaders identify clear areas to action and address these extremely well to ensure all children make excellent progress in their learning.
- Staff plan highly inspiring and fun-filled activities using children's interests and learning needs. Children are actively engaged and very eager to investigate activities further.
- Children with additional needs receive outstanding support from staff. Precise action plans ensure that staff meet children's individual needs very well so that they make the best possible progress.
- Exemplary partnerships with parents provide children with excellent consistency in their learning experiences. Home visits help staff to establish children's needs quickly, so they can plan highly stimulating activities to target children's development from the start.
- The new manager has a first-rate knowledge of the learning and development requirements. Together with the leadership team, she supports staff and apprentices superbly in their professional development to improve outcomes for children.
- Children have extremely high self-esteem. They very confidently express their ideas and opinions, and staff listen and respond enthusiastically.
- Teaching and assessment are extremely strong. Staff have an excellent understanding of each child's needs and plan wonderful activities to help them flourish.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- allow babies even more opportunities to practise and develop their mobility.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held an interview with the leadership team.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during appropriate times of the day.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff's qualifications and records of suitability checks.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents about their views of the provision.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Very detailed and highly effective self-evaluation brings about extremely beneficial changes for children. The leadership team includes the views of staff, parents, children and others to identify areas for development. This has led to more focused activities to extend children's mathematical skills, and the nursery working more effectively with local schools to ensure children are more emotionally and educationally prepared for the next stage in their learning. Safeguarding is effective. Members of the leadership team have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding matters. They 'test' staff's knowledge of safeguarding issues and procedures to ensure they know how to protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are enthused by the highly exciting activities. For example, staff support toddlers exceptionally well to explore water. The younger children climb in the large tubs of warm water and squeal with delight as others pour water over them. Staff encourage them to learn new words and experiment making marks using the water and foam brushes on the floor. Staff plan 'kindness acts' where children bake cakes and deliver these to local businesses, helping children to understand consideration for others. Staff challenge older children's mathematical skills superbly during games, helping them learn to count backwards in two's. Staff monitor children's progress exceptionally well and assessments clearly identify where children require additional support. Excellent strategies with outside agencies support staff extremely well to meet children's individual needs, enabling them to reach their full potential. The partnership with parents is excellent. Staff provide activity packs that support parents very well to continue the learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have an excellent understanding of how to keep healthy. They talk about the need for rigorous hand washing and how the UV light shows up bacteria. Younger children learn about hygiene procedures through songs and excellent staff support. Children benefit greatly from daily exercise in the garden. Younger children do not always have opportunities to make full use of the indoor environment to develop their mobility. Children throughout the nursery have very strong attachments to staff, who promote their emotional well-being exceptionally well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children have excellent opportunities to explore, experiment and investigate, developing vivid imaginations as they find their own ways of doing things. They have a very strong sense of self, are highly active and successful learners, and have a very positive 'can do' approach to new experiences. Children are excellent communicators, behave impeccably and show great respect and consideration for others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY300240
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1028425
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 - 5
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Puffins of Exeter Ltd
Date of previous inspection	12 June 2013
Telephone number	01392 494291

Puffins in the City registered in 1999. The nursery operates in Southernhay, situated in the centre of Exeter, Devon. It opens each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 16 staff, of whom one holds Qualified Teacher Status, eight hold qualifications at level 3, and two hold qualifications at level 2. Five staff are currently working towards a childcare qualification.

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