

Little Explorers

Somerford Primary Community School, Draper Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 3AS



Inspection date

19 May 2016

Previous inspection date

4 December 2012

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 manager has led the successful development of the nursery since the previous inspection at which she was new to the role. The successful uplift in the quality of children's care, experiences and progress stems directly from her determination, enthusiasm, and excellent knowledge of child development and requirements.
- Leaders oversee highly effective partnership working with other professionals and parents. They provide exceptional support to families to help parents overcome difficulties so that their children get the specific individual support that they need.
- Children's welfare is the first concern of staff, who listen to children and help them to feel safe. Staff carefully teach children which risks are appropriate and which are not.
- The staff are excellent role models to children, who respond, for example, by learning to control their impulses and to respect others.
- Children delight in their play experiences and the rich choice of activities provided. They enjoy playing outside and gain positive attitudes to being in the fresh air.
- The manager astutely monitors the progress of individual children and of groups of children so that no child is overlooked. She knows, for example, that boys have equal experiences in early literacy and that if any are behind, the reasons why and how these issues are being addressed. All children make very good progress in their learning.
- Parents, staff and children contribute to the perceptive evaluation of the provision.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement the planned improvements to environments for the younger children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed indoor and outdoor activities and the impact of staff teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents and read letters from other parents.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents that included policies, the spreadsheets for tracking children's development, and evidence of the suitability of staff to work with children.
- The inspector spoke with the staff, children, the manager and the children's centre cluster manager.

Inspector

Rosemary Davies

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager has high expectations of herself, the staff, and of what children can achieve from their entry starting points. She checks that each child's unique needs are known and met. Leaders place emphasis on appointing staff who are keen to develop professionally. The manager leads by example and has attained a relevant higher-level degree since the previous inspection. She uses innovative ways to track children's achievements effectively, for example, by devising useful spreadsheets. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders implement thorough recruitment and induction procedures, and use support sessions to check that staff remain fully aware of their duty to protect children from harm. Staff work hard and successfully to engage all parents in their children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan exciting activities for children, who are eager to join in. They devise fresh play ideas that can be copied by others. For example, they create dens from wood pallets and fix a road map to the sloping outside roof. This activity, for example, helps children to use their coordination skills to run toy vehicles within tracks, while leaning forward and balancing to do so. Staff concentrate exceptionally well on supporting babies' and children's communication and language skills. For example, staff maintain eye contact, emphasise new words and explain meanings clearly. They use highly effective skills to question children and encourage them to solve problems, including mathematical ones.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Excellent relationships underpin children's progress. Parents report in glowing terms on the 'fantastic support' that they receive from staff. Older children talk to staff about themselves and say how they feel. Babies receive consistent, warm support, such as close cuddles when having their milk. Staff do all they can to make any changes in children's lives go smoothly, such as when they first attend and when they leave to go on to school. For example, the manager liaises successfully with Reception year teachers from 11 different schools locally. The nursery has excellent levels of hygiene. The manager recognises that even more can be done to further enrich the outdoor experiences of the younger children.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children, whatever their specific needs or backgrounds, make substantial progress and achieve exceptionally well. They are enthusiastic learners who delight in trying new experiences. They become absorbed in their activities, persevere to achieve new skills and learn to think through how to do things. Older children listen intently to what staff tell them and follow instructions with great care. They learn to play together happily and are well mannered.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY446875
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1028360
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	89
Name of registered person	Dorset County Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP525332
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2012
Telephone number	01202221351

Little Explorers nursery registered under the current ownership of Dorset County Council in 2012. It is located in Christchurch, Dorset. It runs as part of the adjacent children's centre. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged three and four years. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am until 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. There are 16 members of staff who work with the children. Of these, all but two have recognised early years qualifications. The manager holds early years professional status.

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