

The Old School Nursery

West Street, Shapwick, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 9LB



Inspection date	4 August 2016
Previous inspection date	29 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 enjoy a safe and welcoming environment where they build warm and trusting relationships with staff and one another. Staff manage children's move on to their next stage of learning well. Children settle quickly when changing rooms in the nursery.
- Staff provide a broad range of activities, which they plan according to children's interests and learning priorities.
- Children make good progress. Management and staff monitor children's development effectively, which helps them to identify and address gaps in their learning quickly.
- Management's self-evaluation includes the views of staff, parents and children to help improve the outcomes for children. For example, management has plans to extend children's learning in the natural outdoor environment.
- Staff establish excellent partnerships with parents, which helps them to meet individual needs well. Parents say that it feels like their children are part of 'one big family'. They appreciate the frequent sharing of information about their children's activities and progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently help children learn accurate words when talking with them to further support their language skills.
- Management is not always effective in identifying where teaching practice could be developed further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities for staff to consistently model the correct version of words during children's activities to develop their language further
- strengthen methods for monitoring and developing teaching practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities, inside and outside, covering all age groups.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager, and interviewed the manager and provider.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents, which included self-evaluation, the safeguarding policy and children's progress records.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of parents' views, obtained in person and from emails they had written.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. They keep their knowledge up to date through regular training. There are clear recruitment procedures to check staff suitability to work with children. Staff work well as a team to meet children's individual needs. Since the last inspection, they monitor the temperature more effectively to ensure it is comfortable for babies and provide more opportunities for children to develop their creativity in the role play area. Management encourages staff to extend their knowledge. For example, by attending training they are more confident with supporting children's understanding of people's differences. Several members of staff have developed their professional role and gained further early years qualifications.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of the different ways that children learn through play and exploration. They provide a wide range of play equipment that children can easily access independently and extend their own play and learning. For example, children design and build constructions in the outside area, use various pieces of wood, and experiment by balancing, sliding and rolling. Younger children enjoy using their senses to explore materials such as foam, glue and sparkly decorations. All children like to hear and join in with familiar songs, benefiting from sessions provided by a music teacher.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled. Staff find out detailed information from parents, which helps them to make children feel secure. Children develop a strong sense of belonging. For example, they see many photographs of themselves displayed and know that they are valued. Staff praise children regularly, helping to develop their self-esteem and confidence. Staff encourage healthy lifestyles well. They supply freshly cooked meals that support healthy eating and meet individual dietary requirements. Children learn good table manners and practical skills, for example, as they serve their own food and drinks.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. They learn skills that help them prepare well for the next stage in their learning and starting school. Children are confident in making choices and communicating their needs. They relate well to other people and learn to consider others. Children start to recognise familiar words, such as their name. They practise their writing skills in various situations. Children show an interest in numbers through meaningful activities; for example, by noting positions in a running race or how much an ice cream costs. Children develop increasing independence in caring for themselves, such as managing their own clothes and using the toilet without help.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY445921
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1059316
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	59
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	The Old School Nursery (Shapwick) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531572
Date of previous inspection	29 October 2012
Telephone number	01258857922

The Old School Nursery (Shapwick) Ltd opened in 2002 and re-registered in 2012. It is privately owned and operates in Shapwick, between Blandford Forum and Wimborne Minster, Dorset. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.45am to 6pm, all year round, except for one week at Christmas and public holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 18 staff who work directly with the children. The manager is qualified at level 4. She is supported by a team of staff that includes an early years teacher. Most of the other staff hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above.

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