

Mama Bear's Day Nursery

St. Margarets School, Barewell Road, Torquay, TQ1 4PA



Inspection date

6 December 2016

Previous inspection date

11 January 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- There have been several recent changes to management within the setting. The strong senior management team has supported staff very well through these to minimise any impact on children. The team is working effectively with staff to focus on developing practice and providing good quality outcomes for children, for example, through targeted training that focuses on children's learning.
- All children make good progress from their starting points. Children who have special educational needs receive good support to help them achieve. Effective systems for sharing information with parents and other professionals help staff to plan well to narrow any gaps in children's learning.
- Children are happy, confident, and have good self-esteem. Their behaviour shows that they feel emotionally secure. Babies quickly develop strong bonds with staff, and older children learn how to express and manage their emotions positively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some large group activities are too lengthy for younger children, who lose interest and stop paying attention.
- Staff do not gain detailed information from all parents about what their children learn at home, to use in the assessment of children's progress.
- Staff do not check that resources support and encourage children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- organise group activities more effectively so that younger children do not lose attention and become distracted
- continue to encourage all parents to share information about what children learn at home, to better support the assessment process
- provide better opportunities for children to develop and practise their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had discussions with managers, staff, parents and children.
- The inspector observed staff and children engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector talked to managers about how they monitor the effectiveness of the learning provision.
- The inspector reviewed documentation, including safeguarding procedures, and assessed staff's understanding of how to implement these.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team monitors the impact of staff training effectively to ensure it improves children's experiences. For example, following training, staff make better use of resources and play opportunities to link aspects of children's learning together. For instance, following a familiar story, they have provided equipment in the role play area, which has helped children gain a greater understanding of number and size. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a good understanding of local safeguarding procedures and the setting's policies to help them protect children from harm. Senior managers regularly review the effectiveness of risk assessments and make changes as necessary, in response to analysing accident and incident reports.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their secure observations of children well to monitor progress and to plan interesting and challenging activities that encourage children's individual learning. For example, babies and very young children thoroughly enjoyed the sensory experience of exploring pretend snow and looking at the marks they made with their fingers. Older children used a variety of materials to make snowmen, seasonal pictures and decorations. Staff encouraged the children very well to explore their own thoughts and ideas, resulting in very unique creations. Staff organise space and resources well so that children who prefer to learn outdoors have the full range of learning experiences to ensure they make good progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are kind and considerate. For example, older children painting outdoors moved resources so that they were easily accessible when younger children joined them. Children learn well about safety procedures. For example, they practise the emergency evacuation procedures with staff each month and gain a secure knowledge of what to do in the event of a fire. Children of all ages enjoy being active and develop good coordination and control of their bodies. For example, babies had fun stretching to catch bubbles and older children enthusiastically used equipment and raced each other. Staff work well to update parents about routines and what their children learn at nursery.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills that prepare them well for future learning, including going to school. They are very independent. For example, younger and older children serve themselves at lunchtime, showing good safety awareness as they handle food. Children benefit from visits to their proposed schools with staff, so they become familiar with teachers and the environment, and settle in with ease. Teachers visit the nursery to find out what children can do, helping them put in additional support where needed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY450381
Local authority	Torbay
Inspection number	1079063
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Mama Bear's Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901325
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2013
Telephone number	01803 316511

Mama Bear's Day Nursery registered in 2012 and is one of 23 nurseries in a privately owned chain. It operates within the grounds of St Margaret's Academy in Torquay, Devon. It opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 7pm all year round. The setting receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are 16 members of staff working with children. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 5, two hold qualifications at level 4, and nine hold level 3 qualifications.

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