

The Elves and Fairies Woodland Nursery

Edmondsham Village Hall, Edmondsham, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 5RF



Inspection date	16 January 2017
Previous inspection date	10 October 2013

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

- Children are highly motivated by the extremely exciting range of challenging learning experiences that staff provide. They become immersed in learning as they explore, investigate and engage with the natural environment of the woodland.
- The quality of teaching is inspirational. Staff have an outstanding knowledge of how to engage with children to continually support and challenge their learning. Staff skilfully exploit all learning opportunities so that children make exceptionally rapid progress.
- Children show extremely high levels of confidence and independence. They demonstrate a deep understanding of how to stay safe, and how to look after themselves and their friends. This encourages them to take safe risks in their play and build strong relationships with others.
- Staff have exceptionally high standards regarding safety. They complete thorough risk assessments and review their practices frequently based on children's needs, weather conditions and prior experience to protect children's welfare at all times.
- Strong leadership and the commitment of a dedicated and very well-qualified staff team help to ensure that the provision offers high-quality learning experiences for children. A strong emphasis on evaluation helps to ensure areas for improvement are quickly identified and promptly addressed, constantly raising the quality of provision.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop even stronger systems for sharing information with other settings that children attend, to further support children's continual learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children engaged in activities.
- The inspector completed a joint observation and held meetings at an appropriate time with the manager/registered person.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documents and sampled welfare records.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and the qualifications of practitioners working with children and reviewed the provider's self-evaluation document.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection and engaged in discussions with staff and children at appropriate times.

Inspector

Samantha Powis

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider offers exceptionally high-quality care and learning to all children. Managers and staff complete rigorous evaluations on all aspects of the provision to help identify and make improvements. Staff extend their own skills, for example, through training, to further improve the already excellent quality of learning for children. Parents are extremely well informed and are now more involved in children's learning. They have an excellent understanding of how their children are doing and have frequent opportunities to take part in events. Managers recognise the need to share more detailed information when children move on to other settings. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an exceptionally thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are alert to possible concerns. They react promptly to any issues, helping to keep children safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have high expectations of children's learning and offer exceptional support and challenge in everything that children do. Children are eager to learn and demonstrate tremendous confidence as they join in with discussions and suggest ideas. For example, as they discuss the mole hills, children estimate how many worms a mole might eat in a day. Children call out numbers, showing their excellent understanding of number order and value as they increase their estimates when staff suggest the number is higher. Children are exceptionally confident communicators and have an excellent awareness of letters and sounds. For example, they copy rhyming patterns, identify letters as they touch the carved signs and create letter shapes as they move the leaves with their feet.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's physical health and development benefit greatly from the vast range of opportunities to learn in the open air. They experiment with moving their bodies, and show high levels of concentration and perseverance to achieve their goals. Children quickly learn how to use their bodies and adapt their movements to allow them success, such as when climbing up slippery banks and using the rope swing. Children are exceptionally interested in nature and are kind to the environment. For example, they identify the name of the fungus they find growing on a tree and discuss how they must not touch or damage it as it will release spores that may be harmful.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are highly active, independent learners. They understand how to behave and how their actions keep them, and those around them, safe. For example, even the youngest children are observed to measure sticks using their bodies to know how to carry these safely to use in their play. Children develop exceptional skills for their future learning and are extremely well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422487
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1062435
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Kirsteen Margaret Freer
Registered person unique reference number	RP904418
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2013
Telephone number	01725517807

The Elves and Fairies Woodland Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery operates as a Forest School Nursery with Edmondsham Village Hall as the registered base. Most activities take place in Edmondsham Woods, with access to some undercover areas. The nursery operates Monday to Thursday from 8.45am until 4.15pm during school term times. On Friday they operate a toddler group. Additional sessions run during some holiday periods for children up to the age of 11 years. The nursery is registered to receive funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs four staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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