

# Puffins at Clystheath

The Old Chapel, Clystheath, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7EY



## Inspection date

13 January 2017

Previous inspection date

21 February 2014

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 of all ages and abilities make excellent progress from their starting points. Staff make extremely precise and accurate assessments of children. The manager's highly effective monitoring of the learning programme quickly identifies any gaps in children's learning, which staff immediately address through highly effective planning.
- The manager uses rigorous self-evaluation to devise extremely thorough action plans for improvement that focus on providing very high quality outcomes for children. For example, the manager and staff have transformed part of the garden into a vibrant and exciting space where babies thoroughly enjoy exploring freely and safely.
- Children's self-esteem is extremely good. Very strong settling-in procedures and support for children as they move on to the next group in the setting ensure children build excellent relationships with staff. Children of all ages show through their highly confident behaviour that they feel very emotionally secure.
- Staff have excellent relationships with parents. They have successfully improved and extended their strategies to encourage parents to be more involved in their children's learning. Consequently, staff get extremely good information from parents about what their children learn at home, to inform the planning and assessment process further.
- Children who have special educational needs receive excellent support. Staff work very closely with parents and with other professionals to close any gaps in their learning.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop activities that further encourage older children to use their understanding of mathematics in different contexts.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children of all ages and staff engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with one of the company directors, the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled required records, including safeguarding policies and procedures, and assessed staff's understanding of how to implement these.
- The inspector reviewed the effectiveness of self-evaluation, including monitoring of the learning programme, in driving improvements.

### Inspector

Julie Neal

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The extremely strong management team provides excellent support for all staff to extend their knowledge to further benefit children's learning. The manager closely monitors the impact of staff's new skills on children's progress. For example, following training, staff greatly improved outdoor learning opportunities that focus on the natural environment and provide particular challenge for older children. Highly effective monitoring records show a marked increase in children's engagement and concentration during these activities, particularly for boys. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of local safeguarding procedures and know what to do to protect children from harm. They provide extremely good information for parents to raise their awareness of safeguarding issues, such as safe internet use and parental controls.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan exceptionally well. Activities are very exciting and challenging, and children are extremely enthusiastic learners. Staff make excellent observations of children, responding promptly to provide further challenge. For example, babies and toddlers discovered dust at the bottom of a tub of chalk and made marks in this. Staff immediately added flour to the tub, so children had enough dust to swirl with their fingers and make handprints to examine. Staff very effectively help children build on what they know. For example, they read a familiar story together and later, older children thoroughly enjoyed baking their own gingerbread men. Staff had excellent discussions with the children to explore their thoughts and ideas further. For example, they investigated the smells and textures of the ingredients and how these changed as they mixed them together. Older children have a very good understanding of number, shape and measure. However, staff miss some opportunities to encourage them to extend their mathematical knowledge further, such as reading the quantities of ingredients in the recipe.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children learn very well about their community and the wider world. For example, they use computers and tablets extremely competently to find out about other cultures, and to compare customs with their own. Children are very adventurous and keen explorers. Their safety awareness is excellent. For example, they used tools very carefully to cut willow and weaved it to make animal and bird shelters under excellent staff supervision.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children develop excellent skills that prepare them very well for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. They communicate extremely well and enjoy very good activities that develop their confidence in speaking in a group. For example, two-year-old children pulled objects from a bag and spoke about them to the group.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY300223
<b>Local authority</b>	Devon
<b>Inspection number</b>	1068737
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	60
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Puffins of Exeter Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP525259
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	21 February 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01392 446050

Puffins at Clystheath registered in 1995 and re-registered in 2004 under the company's new name, Puffins of Exeter Limited. It is one of a group of nurseries. The nursery is situated within the Clystheath housing development on the outskirts of Exeter, Devon. The nursery opens from 7.30am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, all year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 15 staff working with children. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, six hold level 3 early years qualifications, two hold level 2 qualifications, and six staff are working towards professional qualifications.

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