

Puffins at Beer Pre-School

Mare Lane, Beer, Nr Seaton, Devon, EX12 3NB



Inspection date	20 January 2017
Previous inspection date	30 April 2014

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

- The management team effectively works with staff to evaluate their practice and ensure they support good-quality outcomes for children. For example, they have improved mark-making opportunities outdoors, which have quickly engaged boys who had previously shown little interest in writing.
- The manager effectively identifies and monitors any gaps in learning, which staff quickly address through their good planning for individual children's progress.
- Children are happy and well behaved. Staff are very good role models who teach children well to have respect for each other. Children show that they feel emotionally secure through their confidence and good relationships with each other and staff.
- All children make good progress from their starting points. Staff use their observations well to make ongoing assessments of children and to plan the next steps in their learning. They work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive the support they need to make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently encourage the younger children to join in with larger group activities, to help them learn to listen and pay attention.
- Activities to develop understanding of how to use technology for different purposes lack challenge for older children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop consistency among staff to encourage younger children to join in activities that help them learn to listen and pay attention when part of a larger group
- provide more challenge for older children as they learn to use technology for different purposes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector and manager discussed their observations of staff practice during the course of the inspection.
- The inspector had discussions with the management team, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled required documents, including safeguarding procedures, and assessed staff's understanding of how to implement these.
- The inspector reviewed processes for observation, assessment and planning, and assessed the effectiveness of these in supporting children's progress.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team provides good support to staff and encourages them to develop their knowledge and skills well to improve children's learning. For example, following training to support children's developing communication, they recognised they used too many questions with younger children that required a 'yes' or 'no' answer only. Staff now concentrate on asking questions that encourage children to share their thoughts and ideas in their own way. Staff also provided parents with information about children's speech development and things they can do together at home, which led to some very good feedback about home learning. Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a good understanding of local safeguarding procedures to follow to help protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively plan challenging activities that quickly engage children's interests and participation. For example, children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with ice. Staff encouraged them to think of different ways to get to the objects frozen in the ice and to try out their ideas. For instance, chipping at the ice with tools and banging the trays to dislodge the items. Staff developed this well, encouraging children to use cold and warm water to see which melted the ice quicker. Staff support younger children very well to participate in learning. For example, helping them to use the magnifying glasses to see the patterns on the leaves they collect. Staff provide good resources to encourage children's imaginary play. For example, children wrote out tickets for pretend train journeys, counted out change from the till and calculated the minutes until the train left.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children confidently make decisions and act on them confidently. For example, in the playground, children drew a line beyond which toy cars and bikes should not go, so they did not impede other activities taking place. Children enjoy growing fruit and vegetables with staff, and cooking and eating them as they learn about a healthy diet. Children know it is too soon to plant out yet, but they enthusiastically talked about the things they want to grow this year.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn good skills that prepare them well for the next stage in their learning, including moving on to school. They are independent. For example, they talked about why they needed to put on coats and hats before going outside in the cold, and did this with minimal help. Children helped staff to assess risk to identify which equipment was still too icy to use safely and gave reasons why, such as the slippery steps on the slide could result in a fall.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217314
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1068611
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Puffins at Beer Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP520251
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2014
Telephone number	01297 20403

Puffins at Beer Pre-School registered in 2002. It is situated in a building adjacent to the Church of England Primary School in Beer, Devon. It is a committee-run setting. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm, during term time only. There are five staff employed who work directly with children, four of whom have level 3 early years qualifications and the other member of staff is working towards a professional qualification. The pre-school also employs an office manager.

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