Helitots Day Nursery

R N A S Culdrose, Hms Seahawk, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 7RH



Inspection date	3 February 2017
Previous inspection date	8 November 2012

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

- Managers are thorough in their tracking of children's progress to identify and close any gaps in children's learning promptly. Staff effectively observe, assess and plan for children's individual needs. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Managers use self-evaluation successfully to identify and address areas for further development. This has led them to extend outdoor learning opportunities for children. Effective staff training and support from managers improves teaching skills well, such as engaging babies in games to learn to take turns and interact with others.
- Staff have good relationships and work well in partnership with parents to support children's individual needs well and provide continuity of care. Staff provide clear information and good opportunities to involve parents in children's learning.
- Children benefit from the wide range of activities and resources. They enjoy being at the nursery and show a keen interest in their play. Staff support all areas of children's development well, with an important focus on communication and language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully support the younger children to help them understand the sequence and times of the daily routines, so they become more familiar with what happens next, to extend their feelings of security.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to encourage children to practise and do things for themselves, and become more independent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support younger children more to understand the sequence and times of daily routines, to increase their emotional well-being
- extend the opportunities for children to do things for themselves and become more independent.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children in each of the group rooms.
- The inspector held discussions with the nominated person, manager, staff and parents.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector read the self-evaluation form and sampled children's development records.
- The inspector checked safety and suitability of the premises.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff have a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow that enable them to protect children's welfare. They conduct regular risk assessments and are prompt to report maintenance issues to help keep children safe. Managers and staff share ideas from training well to improve their skills. This has helped staff gain a greater insight in their observations of children, leading them to provide children with more time to process information and questions, before they answer. Managers and staff continue to improve their provision for children, and are currently extending their links with other settings to increase their good support to children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan and provide effective activities to engage children's interest and help them learn. They interact well with children to support each stage of development. Children particularly enjoy sensory play opportunities. For example, toddlers show interest and delight when staff help them to do footprints with paint. Older children play with dough, mud and use creative play materials well to explore. Staff provide toys and resources that interest children and encourage babies to become increasingly mobile and make discoveries. Older children show a good sense of responsibility as they go with staff to choose and swap library books. Staff teach young children basic signing to effectively encourage their communication and language development. Older children have fun during their phonic activities, which help them to learn about letters and sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have warm relationships with staff and feel secure. Staff nurture babies and are attentive to their needs, so babies remain content. They occupy babies well to ensure they are happy as they learn. For example, babies watch with interest and giggle with pleasure as a tower of bricks falls down. Staff successfully prepare children emotionally to move on in their learning, for example, when they move from the toddler to pre-school room. Children develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem. They behave well and follow rules that help to develop their social skills. For instance, older children understand how many can play at each activity and to be safe, and all enjoy themselves.

Outcomes for children are good

Children settle well and are happy in the nursery. They develop a good understanding of the staff's consistent expectations for good behaviour and respond well to their input. For example, older children readily help to put things away and line up when asked. Children learn to listen, take turns and concentrate well during their activities. They develop good skills in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number EY444366

Local authority Cornwall

Inspection number 1059232

Type of provision Full-time provision

Day care typeChildcare - Non-Domestic

Registers Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare

Register

Age range of children 0 - 4

Total number of places 60

Number of children on roll 36

Name of registered person Helitots Day Nursery Limited

Registered person unique

reference number

RP531484

Date of previous inspection 8 November 2012

Telephone number 01326 552662

Helitots Day Nursery is a privately owned and managed nursery. It originally opened in 1994 and re-registered in 2012 due to a change in ownership. The nursery operates from a self-contained unit on Culdrose airbase site, on the outskirts of Helston, Cornwall. It is open each weekday from 7.30am to 5.30pm for 50 weeks of the year. There are 14 members of staff employed to work with the children, seven of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. There are four staff with appropriate qualifications at level 4 and one at level 5. The nursery receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years.

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