

Little Berries

Kentisbury Primary School, Kentisbury, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 4NG



Inspection date

27 April 2017

Previous inspection date

5 May 2015

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

- Thorough self-evaluation enables the provider to quickly identify and address any weaknesses, including gaps in the learning provision, to ensure good outcomes for children. For example, when boys fell behind girls with their writing skills, staff used their knowledge of boys' interests to help them catch up. For instance, children pretend to inspect a building site and make notes on a pad.
- All children make good progress relative to their starting points. Staff use their observations very well to make ongoing assessments of children's achievements in all areas of learning and to plan for future progress. The provider monitors the impact of planning on children's progress to make sure activities provide good challenge.
- Children are happy and confident. They build good relationships with staff and show through their positive behaviour that they feel emotionally secure in the setting.
- The good key-person system is very effective in helping children to settle easily into the setting. Staff quickly develop strong relationships with parents.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Activities to develop older children's understanding of how to use technology for different purposes lack challenge.
- Staff have not been fully successful in encouraging all parents to share information about their children's learning activities and achievements at home, to help inform assessments and planning for future progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more challenge for older children as they learn to use technology
- encourage parents further to share information about their children's achievements at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children engaged in learning activities indoors and outdoors. She conducted a joint observation of an activity with the provider.
- The inspector had discussions with the provider, staff, children and parents. The inspector also read written feedback from parents.
- The inspector sampled required policies and procedures, including safeguarding procedures. She spoke to the provider and staff to assess their understanding of how to implement these procedures.
- The inspector reviewed the effectiveness of arrangements to assess children's progress and plan for their next steps in learning.
- The inspector discussed systems of self-evaluation and how the provider prioritises improvements that have the most impact on children's learning.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Good leadership and management result in staff feeling well supported. The provider encourages staff to develop their skills and knowledge well through training. For example, although they promote children's self-esteem very well and there is a strong focus on supporting children's all-round health and well-being, staff felt less well informed about mental health. Training has made them feel confident and knowledgeable about factors that might cause children to feel anxious and how to identify these. They have further developed strategies to build children's social confidence and communication skills, and they provide parents with good information so they can be aware of issues that might affect children's emotional well-being. Safeguarding is effective. The provider and staff have a good understanding of local child protection procedures and what to do to safeguard children and help protect them from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan effectively overall to provide children with exciting and challenging activities that encourage their learning and development well. Staff's good communication ensures that they all have a thorough understanding of each child's learning objectives and activities. For example, staff use very young children's love of animals well to develop their communication skills; they use animal puppets to involve them in telling a favourite story. Staff's effective planning ensures that activities are inclusive to all ages and abilities. For example, when making cakes, older children use their good knowledge of number, weight and volume to measure out ingredients. Younger children follow picture recipe cards and count the number of scoops with staff.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy being active indoors and outdoors. They are confident yet very safety conscious as they use large apparatus, such as suspended bridges and tyre swings. They know where to avoid a slope when riding bicycles, to keep themselves and others safe. Children enjoy action rhymes and check to make sure they each have enough space, for example, to move their arms and legs like an 'octopus' and 'swim like a shark'.

Outcomes for children are good

All children acquire very good skills that prepare them well for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. The progress check at age two years shows children are consistently achieving at or above expectations, and this continues throughout their time in the setting. For example, good opportunities to mix with different age groups during the day particularly help younger children to develop their social skills. Older children spend time each week with the Reception class at school, getting to know their teachers and daily routines, to be confident and ready when it is time to move on.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431145
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1094979
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	West Exmoor Federation Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP530834
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2015
Telephone number	01271883263

Little Berries registered in 2011. It is run by the governing body of Kentisbury Primary School and operates from within the village school in Kentisbury, near Barnstaple, Devon. The setting is open from 8am to 6pm term time only. There are six members of staff working with the children. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, one holds a relevant degree, and four have level 3 qualifications. The setting provides free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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