

Charity of Mulberry Bush Pre-school, Preston

Littlemoor Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6AA



Inspection date	3 May 2017
Previous inspection date	7 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

- The provider works directly with children and her staff. She monitors the quality of teaching well and provides good staff support to keep improving outcomes for children.
- Staff work well as a team and provide strong role models for children. Children have a good understanding of the adults' expectations and behave well.
- Staff provide good support for children learning English as an additional language. They help children take an active role and become independent in all activities and routines. Staff value the importance of children using their first language and help them to learn and use English successfully.
- The provider monitors children's overall development well. She identifies any gaps and ensures children receive additional help to catch up. All children make good progress.
- Staff organise the environment effectively to enable children to make choices and lead their play. For example, children excitedly use magnifying glasses and clipboards to look closely at bugs they find and keep a record of the different types.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently organise the routines to best effect so that children can have plenty of time to explore their own ideas in self-chosen activities.
- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to help children think of ways to solve problems for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children the time they need for their self-chosen activities to develop and explore their own ideas further
- support children further in solving problems to extend their understanding of the world even more.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke with parents, staff and children and took account of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the safety of the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities and know what procedures to follow if a child is at risk of harm or extreme views. They carry out good risk assessments to keep children safe and secure. The provider evaluates the provision successfully. For example, children can now see their completed creations more easily, which encourages discussion and their sense of achievement. Since their last inspection, the provider has re-organised whole-group activities. They now keep them shorter and provide far more opportunities for children's participation, so their engagement is deeper. Staff have good partnerships with parents and other providers to work together consistently to support children's development. Staff work closely with teachers to prepare children emotionally for moving on to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good, regular observations of children's achievements and use them well to plan challenging activities. They successfully help children to make predictions and test their ideas. For example, children find out which size ball will go down different pipes, and which will roll the furthest and fastest. The manager uses training well to help staff improve teaching. For example, they support children's mathematical skills well as children find shapes in the environment, count items and find corresponding numerals. Staff inspire children to be imaginative. For example, children make their own cakes and bread from dough to set up a bakery. Staff support children well to enjoy books. For example, children are eager to be one of the characters and fill in familiar words.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff sensitively help children to make friends and be an active part of the group. They support new children well in making choices and engaging with others. Children have a positive awareness of people's differences and learn to respect others' opinions. They have a good understanding of effective ways to work together and think of others. For example, older children make comments, such as 'we worked well as a team to do that'. Staff teach children effectively to stay safe and healthy. For example, children know they cannot go outside without an adult and must not eat salt-dough, as it is bad for them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children develop good skills that prepare them well for school. They become confident communicators and learn there are different ways of saying the same thing. For example, at registration, some speak in French or Welsh, while others wave or use English terms to say hello. Children listen well and follow instructions. They manage their personal care and older children put on their coats and do up their zips independently. Children recognise their names and have good opportunities to practise their early writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY406512
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1094220
Type of provision	Full-time 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	26
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Mulberry Bush Pre-School Preston Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP529577
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2015
Telephone number	01305 458945

Charity of Mulberry Bush Pre-school, Preston registered in 2010. It is located in Weymouth, Dorset. The pre-school is open during term time only from 8.45am to 12 noon on Monday and from 8.45am to 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. There are seven members of staff. Of these, the manager and one other member of staff are qualified teachers. Two staff hold an early years qualification at level 3 and three staff hold early years qualifications at level 2.

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