

Highampton Area Pre-School



Highampton Village Hall, Church Road, Highampton, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5LE

Inspection date

11 May 2017

Previous inspection date

30 June 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

- Staff follow children's interests well and provide a wide range of activities. This contributes towards children being motivated and enthusiastic learners, and helps them to make good progress.
- Staff remind children sensitively about appropriate behaviour and encourage them to be polite, use their manners, share and take turns.
- The small and friendly staff team is sensitive to children's emotional needs and well-being. They display a warm, caring attitude and provide a stimulating environment where children are happy.
- Staff form strong partnerships with parents and other professionals to support children's well-being and development. They have close links with the community and local schools to support children as they move on to their next stage in learning.
- The managers are ambitious. They carefully evaluate all aspects of the pre-school and accurately identify strengths and specific areas to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Small group times are not always organised as well as they could, so all children remain interested and engaged in their learning.
- Staff miss opportunities to use technology to extend children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of small group work so children remain interested and engaged in their learning
- provide children with more opportunities to use technology to extend their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children, inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, both managers, and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies, children's records and qualification certificates.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the managers.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and carers to gain their views on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers are successful in evaluating the pre-school and improving specific areas of the provision. They have developed methods to systematically check children's learning and identify any variation in the progress of different groups of children. Managers use accurate assessments of children's development to identify ways to support children. For example, they provide mathematical activities that are more appealing to boys by using their interests in the farm and tractors. As a result, boys are more confident with counting and using number and shapes in their play. Staff have made good use of training to improve sensory activities for children both inside and outside. Safeguarding is effective. Clear procedures, regular training and strong partnerships with other agencies help staff and managers to recognise and deal with concerns about children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff interact well with children to support their learning. Staff listen carefully to children as they talk. They reinforce and extend children's language and introduce new ideas to their play, for example, when singing their favourite songs or reading stories. When children make sand castles, staff challenge them well to count how many scoops of sand their buckets need. Children enjoy learning outside and investigating the world around them. They are enthused by staff who share in their discoveries, for example, when discovering the different sounds musical instruments make. Staff use their assessments well to find out what children need to learn next and plan activities effectively to promote children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

A well-embedded key-person system helps children to form secure emotional attachments. Children move freely around the pre-school and enjoy access to a stimulating environment. Staff have high expectations and praise children for their efforts. Mealtimes are social occasions and staff make good use of these opportunities to help children to be independent. For example, older children serve their food themselves and pour their own drinks at snack times. Staff support children's physical well-being effectively. Children have regular access to fresh air and take pleasure in exploring and investigating the outdoor area.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children develop good early literacy skills that help prepare them well for learning to read when they start school. For example, they can read and write their own names, and enjoy playing rhyming games with words. Younger children quickly learn key communication and social skills to play with others, and they are starting to recognise letters. All children receive good support to become confident and independent learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106127
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1088973
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Highampton Area Pre-school Group Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP902057
Date of previous inspection	30 June 2015
Telephone number	07837357815

Highampton Area Pre-school registered in 1996. It operates from the village hall in Highampton, Devon. The pre-school is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am to 3.15pm during term time. The pre-school provides free early education for two, three and four-year-old children. There are five members of staff, who all hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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