

# Little Birch Preschool

Blandford St. Mary C of E, Birch Avenue, Blandford St. Mary, Blandford Forum,  
Dorset, DT11 9QD



## Inspection date

14 June 2017

Previous inspection date

17 June 2015

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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

- Children are confident and motivated to learn. Staff plan exciting activities that support children's learning very well and help them make good progress.
- Staff are kind and reassuring, and children go to them easily for cuddles. Staff support children very well to develop a good sense of self and emotional well-being.
- The management team gives good emphasis to staff development and training opportunities. For example, staff now give better focus to children's outdoor learning and provide exciting practical experiences, such as building dens, to support children in discovering more about the world.
- Staff actively promote children's physical well-being. For instance, children frequently play outside and develop positive attitudes to exercise. They feel their hearts beating faster after they have been running and learn how exercise affects their bodies.
- Children interact happily and behave well. Staff encourage children effectively to be kind and helpful. For example, older children help their younger friends at snack time.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not gather enough detailed information from parents about what children already know and can do on entry, to support their initial planning more effectively.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to encourage children to recognise and match numbers to quantity and develop their mathematical awareness further still.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gain further information from parents about children's starting points to better inform the initial planning of activities
- provide more opportunities for children to recognise and use numerals in activities, to further develop their mathematical awareness.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's interactions indoors and outdoors, and had discussions with staff at appropriate times.
- The inspector viewed documentation, such as operational policies, procedures and required records for suitability.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken with at the visit and the results of parent questionnaires.
- The inspector had discussions with the management team.

### Inspector

Mary Daniel

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff complete safeguarding training. They clearly understand how to manage any concerns and their responsibility to protect children's welfare. For example, the management team implements an effective recruitment, induction and supervisory process to ensure staff's continuing suitability and professional development. The management team and staff regularly evaluate their practice and seek parents' views to help them make further improvements. For instance, staff have introduced sessions for parents to come into the setting to learn more about their children's learning through play. Staff liaise well with other professionals involved with children's care, to provide a consistent approach to monitoring children's learning.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are good role models for children, and they extend children's communication and understanding of the world very well. For instance, children talk confidently about going in an aeroplane and on holiday to the beach. They tell staff there are 'crabs on the beach' that 'might bite their toes'. Children show fascination when they find a spider outside and see how it makes a web to climb on. Staff promote children's imagination and exploration of different textures effectively. For example, children move the dinosaur toys through the jelly gloop or hide them under shells. They make pretend meals in the home corner.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's understanding of safety very well. For example, children tell staff that 'the fire brigade have ladders to help people or get cats out of trees'. Children know they need to wear armbands to keep safe when they go swimming. Staff encourage children's awareness of good hygiene routines very well. For instance, children know they must wash their hands before eating their snack. They say, 'If we don't wash the germs off our hands, we might get ill.' Staff actively encourage children's self-identity and awareness of their community. For example, children walk with staff around the local area and talk about their homes and how they get to pre-school. They decide who lives in a big or small house and tell staff their legs sometimes get tired walking to pre-school.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills to help them with their move to school. Children enjoy their regular visits to the Reception class with staff and become familiar with the school environment. For instance, they often join in with singing and story sessions at school with their older friends. Children learn well through exploration and investigation. For example, older children make rafts out of lolly sticks and corks, and experiment with different items to see what floats and sinks. Younger children like using glitter, shape cutters and rolling pins with the play dough to make a 'colourful, sparkly birthday cake'.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	141119
<b>Local authority</b>	Dorset
<b>Inspection number</b>	1089608
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	16
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	37
<b>Name of registered person</b>	The Little Birch Pre-School Committee
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP905074
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 June 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	07929363291

Little Birch Preschool registered in 1998. It operates from a purpose-built unit situated in the grounds of Blandford St Mary Church of England Primary School in Blandford, Dorset. The pre-school is run by a parent committee and is open Monday to Friday, from 8am until 3.30pm, during school term times. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs five staff. Of these, four hold a level 3 early years qualification and one holds a level 2 early years qualification.

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