

Shaftesbury Children's Centre Nursery

Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury, North Dorset, SP7 8PZ



Inspection date

25 July 2017

Previous inspection date

12 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 are consistently good role models for children. They listen and value children's ideas and opinions. Staff help children to behave well and understand about democracy. For example, they use positive reinforcement with young children and give older children choices to vote on. Children happily accept they will go with the majority.
- The manager tracks children's overall development accurately and identifies where they need additional support to help them catch up. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- The strong partnerships with parents, outside agencies and other providers has a beneficial impact on children. They share important information to enable them to work together well to meet children's learning needs and promote their well-being effectively.
- Staff provide good support for children's language and communication skills, including using sign language. For example, they plan exciting sensory experiences, such as walking through lavender, and exploring custard and warm bubbly water, to encourage children's descriptive language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support children's awareness of their own backgrounds, and similarities and differences.
- Staff miss opportunities to enable children to manage age-appropriate tasks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support the younger pre-school-aged children further to develop a positive awareness of their own backgrounds, similarities and differences
- help older children to take on more manageable tasks to support their independence further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children, and took account of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the safety of the premises.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and carried out a joint observation.
- 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. Staff carry out good safety checks before children arrive, use the garden or go on outings, to help keep children safe. They implement their policies and procedures well, including having emergency plans for children's specific medical needs. The manager and staff have a strong understanding of the procedures to follow if a child is at risk of harm and who to inform of any allegations. The manager encourages self-evaluation well throughout the nursery, including seeking children's and parents' feedback. She provides good support to help staff continually improve their skills and provide good outcomes for children. They have good opportunities to attend training, such as supporting two-year-old children, emotional coaching and speech delay. Staff are currently using a new assessment system and evaluating its effectiveness.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations successfully to plan the environment and activities well, including using children's ideas. They help children to have confidence to have a go at new skills and join in with activities. Staff provide good opportunities for children to engage in self-chosen activities. They move children's learning on effectively. For example, when older children show an interest in balancing, staff suggest using an obstacle course and encourage children to set it to their ability. Staff plan whole-group activities that engage children, helping them to listen and concentrate. They ensure older children have good opportunities to contribute to group discussions and answer questions. Staff provide babies with playful interaction that encourages them to respond. They engage babies in lots of sensory play, such as exploring paint, foam and water.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and emotionally secure. They have strong relationships with each other and the staff. Staff help them to include each other in their play and be kind. For instance, they praise children for trying to comfort younger ones, telling them, 'They like that, look you made them happy'. Children enjoy being active and develop good physical skills. For example, babies walk around furniture and older children climb with control and coordination. Children love being outdoors, which has a positive impact on their health and well-being. They understand the importance of keeping healthy. They know to wear hats in the sun and drink plenty of water. Even young children go to wash their hands when it is snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills and attitudes that prepare them well for their next stage of learning and school. Babies and young children explore and investigate the resources to understand their world. Older children practise their early mathematical and writing skills. They recognise letters in their name, draw shapes and count how many sides they have. Children are confident communicators. Babies and young children make their needs known and older children learn the correct way to pronounce words and extend their vocabulary. Children have fun learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336390
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1092767
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Dorset County Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP519822
Date of previous inspection	12 June 2015
Telephone number	01747 850288

Shaftesbury Children's Centre Nursery registered in 2007 and operates from purpose-built premises within the children's centre in Shaftesbury, Dorset. The setting opens from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks a year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The provision employs 13 members of staff. Of these, one member of staff has an early years qualification at level 5. There are five staff with an early years qualification at level 3 and five staff hold a level 2.

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