

The Old School Children's Centre

Church Hill, Whitchurch, TAVISTOCK, Devon, PL19 9ED



Inspection date

14 August 2017

Previous inspection date

27 October 2014

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 manager ensures the learning environment provides a varied range of exciting opportunities that children enjoy. Resources are located easily, so all children can make independent play choices to extend their interests and develop new ones.
- Staff are good role models for children. They interact positively with each other and form close bonds with children, helping them to feel safe and secure.
- The manager monitors children's progress effectively. She completes regular analysis of children's development to help quickly identify and support any gaps. Children make good progress.
- Since the last inspection, the team has made good improvements. Staff provide a greater range of opportunities for children to be creative in their learning. For example, older children mix vinegar and soda to re-create 'volcanic explosions'.
- Self-evaluation is accurate. The management team seeks the views of staff, parents and children to contribute to improvement plans that positively support good outcomes for children. For example, there are clear plans to help staff extend children's communication skills even further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not build on children's understanding of healthy eating to ensure they eat a variety of nutritious foods at lunch.
- There are few opportunities for children to explore different cultures and people in their free play and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on opportunities to extend children's understanding of healthy eating
- increase experiences for children to learn about different cultures and people during their everyday play and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing in different spaces, with staff and other children.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and nominated person to discuss how the setting is organised.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including children's learning records, policies and training records.

Inspector

Tristine Hardwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know how to identify and report any concerns they have about children's safety and welfare. They complete ongoing training to develop their knowledge and teaching skills. For example, recent training identified more ways to encourage children's early writing in the outdoors. The management team follows effective recruitment procedures. It ensures new staff are suitable to work with children through completing appropriate vetting checks. The manager provides ongoing support to staff and monitors their individual practice well. Together, they identify potential training to benefit and extend teaching standards across the nursery. Staff share their knowledge and skills during meetings. They work together well to find ways to extend opportunities for children, such as adapting spaces for more play opportunities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff across the nursery use a range of techniques to support children's learning. For example, staff working with the youngest children describe what children do as they play, which helps children to develop their communication and vocabulary. Staff working with the older children pose challenging questions to help children think independently. For example, they ask them to think about what equipment they may need to make a 'fire engine'. Children in the younger age group make sense of their world and experiences through their play. For example, children learn self-care skills as they dress dolls.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Partnerships with parents are effective. Staff exchange a variety of information with parents to help provide consistent care and learning arrangements. For example, supporting children's emotional development through managing behaviour positively. Children are sociable and behave well. They interact well with others as they play, take turns and form good friendships. Staff regularly praise children. Their encouragement helps children to build positive self-esteem and be motivated to learn. Children are energetic and enjoy playing in different environments, such as outdoors. They develop their understanding of nature and how things change. For example, as they play imaginatively in a mud kitchen, they talk about mixing ingredients to make a cake.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy a range of activities that extends their skills across all areas of learning. They learn to express themselves successfully, such as dancing, and older children enthusiastically move pretending to be dinosaurs. Children develop very strong physical skills. Younger ones who are learning to walk strengthen their muscles well as they stand with the support of staff. Older children move confidently between the inside and outside spaces, climbing on apparatus and using slides. Children build very early writing skills, such as using a range of equipment to make marks. For example, the youngest children use sponges and water to make patterns and older ones confidently use pencils to draw on paper. Children prepare well for their next stages in learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422875
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1071366
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 - 8
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	83
Name of registered person	Lesley Griffiths, Natasha Weake & Abigail Gardiner Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP530422
Date of previous inspection	27 October 2014
Telephone number	01822612362

The Old School Children's Centre registered in 2014. It is located in Tavistock, Devon. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am until 6pm, 51 weeks of the year. There are 22 members of staff, most of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification. Three staff, including the manager, hold qualified teacher status. One member of staff is qualified to level 5, one to level 4, 13 to level 3 and one to level 2. Three are unqualified, including a cleaner and a maintenance man. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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