

Merry-Go-Round Pre-School



Merry Go Round Pre School, Stokenham, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 2SJ

Inspection date	17 November 2017
Previous inspection date	14 January 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 have strong relationships with parents. Effective communication systems and frequent toddler groups help to strengthen the transition between home and the provision.
- The manager has a high-level qualification and uses her knowledge to provide children with a broad range of learning experiences, to help children make good progress.
- Staff teach children well, helping them develop key skills to improve their outcomes. For example, children use mirrors to look at the shapes of their facial features, helping to support their mathematical development well.
- Children are well cared for by friendly and nurturing staff. They have developed close relationships with staff, who support their emotional well-being effectively.
- Staff organise regular outings for children, such as trips to the local fire and police station. Children bake biscuits to raise money for charity, helping them to work closely with all members of the community.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships with other providers are not fully effective, to enable a consistent, shared approach to children's learning.
- There are missed opportunities to extend children's understanding further of how exercise and food benefit the body.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with other providers to help provide consistency in children's learning
- extend opportunities for children to learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at a range a documentation, including children's records, staff suitability checks, safeguarding policies and the setting's self-evaluation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and an interview with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents about their views on the provision.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the day.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager monitors children's progress well and quickly identifies gaps in their learning. She seeks support from other professionals to help meet children's individual needs well. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures to help protect children from harm. A strong self-evaluation process, coupled with effective supervision of staff, helps to improve practice for children. For example, the manager and staff have developed activities that strengthen children's muscles in preparation for early writing. Staff keep their knowledge updated frequently, and share this with parents. For instance, parents receive information on supporting children's communication skills at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good knowledge of how to support children's learning and development. They use effective observation and assessment methods to help plan children's next steps alongside stimulating activities. For example, younger children enjoy counting games and songs. Older children represent numbers on the chalkboard during a game of skittles. This helps to support all children's mathematical development well. All children enjoy searching for small creatures in the garden and staff help them learn about different creatures, such as centipedes and larvae. This helps to support children's understanding of the world well. A good range of creative materials helps to develop children's imaginations. For example, children enjoy making 'ice creams' using pom-poms and lolly sticks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have strong opportunities to learn about other cultures. For example, they sing songs in different languages and learn about various festivals. They enjoy tasting a range of food from other countries, such as India, and make decorative body art designs. Children's behaviour is good. They play cooperatively and learn how to take turns during outdoor games. Staff are good role models and provide children with warm and nurturing relationships, helping to support their emotional well-being. Children are encouraged to develop their imagination well, such as when playing on the real boat in the garden area.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are confident and inquisitive learners. They learn about the natural world, such as through exciting visits to the woods, and follow the stream to the local beach. Young children learn how to use scissors well, and older children develop good control of writing tools. All children build and balance with crates outside, helping to support good physical skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY292062
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1092072
Type of provision	Sessional 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	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Merry Go Round Pre-School And Toddler Group (Stokenham)
Registered person unique reference number	RP901148
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2015
Telephone number	01548 581 440

Merry-Go-Round Pre-School registered in 2004 and is open Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 3.15pm, term time only. The pre-school offers free early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are five members of staff who work directly with the children. The manager has qualified teacher status, and four members of staff hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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