

Hartley House Childcare Unit

102 Charfield Drive, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5PS



Inspection date

5 January 2018

Previous inspection date

4 November 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

- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff provide comprehensive information and support to parents and carers about children's development. For example, staff share 'home learning packs' with parents to help children develop new skills, such as counting, threading, pencil control and shape recognition.
- Children behave well. They take turns and play cooperatively, such as during group games. They understand the rules and boundaries of the setting, and staff promote children's self-esteem well, for example, through praise and encouragement.
- The management team monitors staff performance well. Frequent supervisions identify staff strengths and areas for development, to help expand their teaching strategies and improve outcomes for children.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about different occupations. For instance, children meet paramedics and explore the ambulance, to help them gain a good understanding of people in the community.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not consistently help children understand the purpose and expectations of activities to help them achieve well.
- Partnerships with local schools are not fully effective to help them work together to provide consistency in 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:

- provide children with more information about the aim of activities, to help them understand what is expected of them and to achieve well
- develop effective partnerships with local schools, to help provide a two-way flow of information to support children's development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and carers, to gain their views of the provision.
- The inspector spoke to children and observed them interacting with staff.
- The inspector held an interview with the manager about the quality of leadership and management.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's assessments, staff suitability checks and qualifications, safeguarding policies, and the self-evaluation process.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The premises are secure. The manager and staff have a strong understanding of child protection procedures to help keep children safe, including from extremist views and behaviours. Use of a password system prevents unauthorised persons from collecting children, to help protect their welfare. The manager reflects well on practice using self-evaluation effectively to make changes. For example, through monitoring children's progress, she has identified the need for more mathematical activities outside and provided staff with training to target this. She has recently implemented adult-led activities to enable staff to spend further quality time with their key children, to help support their emotional well-being. All staff attend frequent training to keep their knowledge updated and to improve practice for children. Staff have created story baskets using puppets and resources to strengthen children's early reading and communication skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make frequent observations and assessments of children's progress to help them plan engaging activities that meet their interests. For example, younger children enjoy rolling clear bottles containing a variety of materials, such as dry rice and pasta, to explore the contents and how they move. Older children spoon dry porridge oats into pots, to help develop good hand-to-eye coordination and understanding of volume. All children enjoy group times with their key person, where they match colours, play board games and talk about different types of animals, supporting their understanding of the world well. Children develop their knowledge of other cultures effectively. For instance, parents cook meals from their home country and wear traditional clothes, sharing their experiences with children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have good opportunities to be physically active. They enjoy parachute games outside, learning mathematical concepts such as 'up', 'down', 'under' and 'over'. They develop strong balancing skills and know they need a drink of water after exercise. A good key-person system is in place. All staff are aware of children's individual needs, and provide strong support to help them make good progress in their development. Children are encouraged to be independent, to help prepare them for school. For example, children cut up their own snack using safety knives and are able to manage their personal needs well.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident and inquisitive learners. Younger children learn how to make marks with crayons and paint. They explore and investigate with interest. Older children learn how to write their name, helping to support good early writing skills. All children engage in singing activities, building a strong repertoire of favourite songs and rhymes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117120
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1070167
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 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	Hartley Hare Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521903
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2014
Telephone number	01752 708311

Hartley House Childcare Unit was registered in 1986. It operates from the grounds of Eggbuckland Community College, in Plymouth, Devon. The unit is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for most of the year, including school holidays. The unit receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine members of staff including the manager, who holds a childcare qualification at level 4. Five staff hold qualifications at level 3, and three members of staff are unqualified.

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