

Dorchester Opportunity Preschool Group Ltd

The Prince Of Wales Unit, Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, DT1 2HH



Inspection date	8 February 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The committee and manager have a strong commitment to providing the very best for the children in their care and to continually improving the provision. They have high expectations of their staff, who share their vision, and are rewarded with a highly competent and committed team that works extremely well together.
- Children make excellent progress from their starting points. Tailored individual education plans show that staff plan for children's interests and learning styles to help them to reach their full potential.
- The setting is exceptionally well resourced. Staff and children make the very best use of the well-organised space, indoors and outside. Children benefit from extensive opportunities for sensory play and activities that staff effectively adapt for individual children.
- Staff put children's welfare at the heart of everything they do. They are sensitive and caring in their approach and relish in children's achievements.
- Partnership with parents is exceptional. Management and staff provide families with practical and emotional support that benefits children's care, learning and development very successfully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider ways to adapt the lunchtime changeover to maintain the calm and ordered environment for children that staff successfully establish throughout the rest of the day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children as they played, and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector had meetings with the manager, the committee chair and the nominated person.
- The inspector spoke to parents in person and by telephone, and took account of their written views.
- The inspector and the manager observed a planned activity together and discussed their findings.
- The inspector viewed a range of policies, children's development records and sampled required documentation.

Inspector

Anne Mitchell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

A strong and dedicated committee supports the manager and staff extremely well. For all those involved in the setting, children's safety is paramount. Staff are confident about how to recognise if a child is at risk of harm and implement highly effective procedures to keep children safe. Safeguarding is effective. A comprehensive staff training schedule enables staff to enhance their skills, share what they learn, continue to provide exemplary teaching and benefit children. For example, following recent training on communication and language, small-group sessions have been successfully adapted to extend children's listening and concentration skills. Staff work collaboratively with other professionals and have strong links with feeder schools to support children's progress and well-being. For example, speech therapy sessions on site include parents to enable them to use successful strategies at home. The manager and staff monitor progress in detail to enable them to plan meticulously for the next stage of each child's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Highly skilled and insightful staff use proven and successful strategies to engage children and help them learn through play. For example, they use picture time lines, symbols and non-verbal communication and signing to support children who are visual thinkers and learners, and who find pictures and other visual aids helpful. Quality teaching skills enable children who have previously struggled to concentrate and to focus for extended periods. For example, children happily explore the role-play area, using real vegetables and salad leaves to make pretend meals and smoothies. Staff adeptly extend this activity, encouraging children to count the pieces of carrots they have cut and to broaden their vocabulary. Sessions in the hydrotherapy pool have contributed to increasing children's physical development and confidence. Those who are reluctant to make eye contact, do so in this relaxed environment. Parents feel fully involved in their children's development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff know each child and their family remarkably well. They use this knowledge very effectively to meet the range of complex needs. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly, with exceptional patience and sensitivity. Children, including those who struggle with new situations, settle well and make strong bonds with their key persons. They are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their learning. Overall, staff provide a calm and ordered environment, where children feel safe and secure. Children enjoy the challenges set by staff to help their development, and they flourish well in this setting.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children of all ages and abilities make significant progress. They develop excellent physical skills through activities such as running and balancing in the playground, swimming, painting activities and completing puzzles. Children successfully develop their communication skills, either verbally or non-verbally, through highly effective support.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY492342
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	1024578
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	18
Name of registered person	The committee of Dorchester Opportunity Preschool Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP534817
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01305 751707

Dorchester Opportunity Preschool Group registered in 2015. It operates from rooms in the Prince of Wales Unit in Dorchester, Dorset. Children have use of a main playroom, the school hall, a sensory room, a soft-play area, a speech therapy room and a hydrotherapy pool. There is an enclosed safety-surfaced playground for outdoor play. The setting caters for children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. The group opens from 9.30am until 2.30pm on Monday to Thursday and from 9.30am until 12.30pm on Friday, term time only. There are 10 members of staff who work with the children. Most staff are qualified to level 3 and one holds early years professional status and is an early years teacher.

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