

Southernwood Nursery

Greenway Road, Torquay, TQ2 6JE



Inspection date

28 February 2018

Previous inspection date

17 April 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 manager has an exceptional understanding of the learning and development requirements. She implements these meticulously to ensure children's holistic development reaches outstanding levels.
- Staff have highly successful strategies to involve parents in their children's learning. For instance, they encourage parents to learn new songs, help children recall words, and encourage counting at home, to help nurture children's individual needs.
- All children excel in their learning, including those who start at a lower development level for their age. Staff provide children with superb support to help them make outstanding achievement across all areas of learning. Children are prepared exceptionally well for their move to school.
- The manager provides staff with rigorous supervision and training to maintain excellent teaching and care standards. For example, staff broaden their extensive knowledge around emotional development, to help children form secure attachments and build high levels of resilience.
- Children visit innovative places, such as to a farm school, and enjoy playing outside in the snow, supporting their physical well-being significantly.
- Children care for pet chickens and rabbits, helping them be more responsible, compassionate and caring.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already excellent mathematical experiences, to help children develop their understanding of quantities further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held an interview with the manager and her deputy, to discuss aspects relating to leadership and management.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children to gain their views and thoughts on the provision.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the manager, to assess the quality of staff practice.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, children's assessment records, safeguarding policies and the self-evaluation process.
- The inspector observed a variety of activities, the interactions between staff and children, and the quality of teaching.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a comprehensive understanding of child protection and are highly alert to any child who may be at risk. They use robust procedures to protect children from threats or extremist behaviours. The manager monitors children's progress exceptionally well. She works diligently with other professionals to ensure all children reach their full potential. Specific activities support children extensively, to help close gaps in learning. The manager and staff are highly reflective, using their self-evaluation process continually, to improve their exceptional practice for children. For instance, children visit local care homes where they perform well-known stories and the elderly bake biscuits for the children. This helps children extensively learn about different generations, the community and the world around them.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. They carry out comprehensive observations and meticulously track children's play experiences, to help plan highly challenging activities. For example, children brilliantly identify letter sounds and blend them together accurately to make words. Children then use their new-found knowledge to match words and objects during free-play activities, and write their names inside Mother's Day cards, to extend their learning to high levels. Children enjoy baking activities, developing their understanding significantly around recipes and different ingredients, although, on occasions, staff miss opportunities to help children learn about quantities, to extend their mathematical development even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is excellent. They share and take turns exceptionally well, considering the views and opinions of others. Staff have extremely warm relationships with children. They provide highly effective activities, such as yoga and drama sessions, to help build children's confidence and develop a positive attitude to learning. Children are highly independent and confidently explore their environment. They find their name cards and freely choose challenging activities. Children develop an excellent understanding of risk, for example, when playing outside in the snow.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress in this exceptional nursery. Younger children enthusiastically learn to recite numbers in order from one to 20, using 'number lines' to support them. Older children impressively recognise and select the correct numerals to represent objects. All children develop their imagination skills to a high level. They enjoy retelling stories, and develop excellent vocabulary influenced by traditional tales. Children flourish and are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY468344
Local authority	Torbay
Inspection number	1069730
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	99
Name of registered person	Southernwood Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903373
Date of previous inspection	17 April 2014
Telephone number	01803607640

Southernwood Nursery registered in 2013 and is in Torquay, Devon. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for most of the year. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. There are 15 members of staff working directly with the children. Of these, two hold qualified teacher status and eight hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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