

Sara's School

Tedburn St. Mary Village Hall, Tedburn St. Mary, Exeter, EX6 6EB



Inspection date

8 March 2018

Previous inspection date

19 September 2013

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 work in effective partnership with others to provide additional support to children's individual learning. For example, in children's communication and language development.
- Observation, assessment and planning procedures are effective. The manager monitors children's progress well to effectively identify and close any gaps in learning. Staff provide clear information to involve parents well in children's learning.
- Staff work well together to plan and set up a good range of activities at each session. They provide a welcoming and stimulating environment. Children enjoy learning and make good progress from their starting points.
- Self-evaluation is effective. The manager and staff reflect well on their practice and provision. They continue to develop and improve further, to the benefit of children. For example, staff are increasing their skills in signing, to extend support in children's communication skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not extend support to children learning English as an additional language to hear and use their home language, and increase learning opportunities for all children.
- Although younger children explore and access different activities, staff miss opportunities to engage and involve them consistently well, to support learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities for children to hear and use their home language in play, and extend learning for all children
- extend support to younger children in their chosen play, to increase their interest and learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff and children in their indoor activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and parents.
- The inspector viewed a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector discussed a joint observation with the manager and read the self-evaluation form.
- The inspector checked required documentation, including registers, qualification certificates and evidence of staff suitability.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Since the last inspection, the manager and staff have increased their support for children's literacy development with success. For example, they have extended their provision of writing materials and range of activities for children. Staff evaluate training and make good use of their learning. For example, they improved the layout of the hall to create a cosy area, to better meet the needs of the youngest children. Staff work well together to plan, organise and set up a good range of activities at each session. They are conscientious about security and supervise children well. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of the procedures that enable them to safeguard children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff enable children to express their own creativity in play. For example, children make models using boxes, tape and scissors with competence. Children choose to draw a picture and show pride as they put it away to take home. Younger children like to join in and 'have a go', which develops good skills for learning. For instance, they enjoy the sensory experience of smearing paint onto paper. Staff increase the learning challenges for older children, such as teaching them letter sounds and shapes. They provide physical play opportunities for children, both in the hall and outdoors. For example, children do action songs to exercise their bodies. Staff create space for children to run around and have fun. Children develop good coordination in their physical skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children respond well to the positive behaviour management of staff. For example, they understand a gentle reminder to have 'kind hands'. Staff successfully encourage older children to resolve any minor disputes with a hug and an apology. Children make friends and play well together. They make confident and independent choices in their play. For instance, they are proud to dress up as superheroes and popular characters. Children enjoy imaginative play and use role-play resources well. For example, they busily pretend to make food and go shopping. Children enjoy the café-style snack time and show increasing independence skills. For example, older children carefully unscrew and screw the cap on their milk carton. Staff provide good support to younger children to meet their individual needs well.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy being at pre-school and settle well. They feel secure and show a good understanding of the daily routines. For example, children arrive happily and select their names to register themselves as present each day. Children are keen to join group activities, such as circle time. They learn to listen and speak in turn, which supports their communication and social skills well. Children become ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY448999
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1062708
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	1 - 10
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	Sara Louise Smale
Registered person unique reference number	RP515078
Date of previous inspection	19 September 2013
Telephone number	07801 535 323

Sara's School (pre-school) registered in 2012. It is privately owned and managed by the provider. The pre-school operates from the village hall in Tedburn St Mary, approximately seven miles from Exeter. It is open on Monday to Friday from 8am to 3pm, except on Wednesday when it is open until 5.30pm. A breakfast club operates for school-aged children between 7.50am and 8.50am. Care is available on occasional days in some school holidays. The pre-school receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff, including the manager. Of these, four have qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2.

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