

The Forest Pre-School and Outdoor Adventurers Holiday Club



The Reading Room, Bashley Cross Road, Hinton, Hampshire, Dorset, BH23 7DU

Inspection date

8 March 2018

Previous inspection date

5 March 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

- The manager and staff offer good opportunities for children to gain confidence and self-esteem through extended learning experiences in a woodland environment. Children play outdoors in all weathers and particularly enjoy exploring the stream with staff.
- Children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN), make good progress from their starting points.
- Parents speak highly about the pre-school. They comment that the manager and staff are very approachable and they frequently communicate with them about children's development. Good relationships with outside agencies and professionals help the manager to access additional support to close any identified gaps in children's learning.
- The key-person system is highly effective. Staff know children well and match their expectations to children's specific needs and levels of development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not make the most of all opportunities to extend children's critical thinking and exploration even further.
- Although the manager monitors staff practice, he does not effectively identify and target weaker aspects to raise the quality of their teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use questioning and opportunities to encourage children to think and explore more deeply, to extend their learning even further
- monitor staff practice to identify and address weaker aspects of practice more closely, to help raise the quality of teaching and children's learning even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during outdoor activities in the woodland area and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector and the pre-school supervisor jointly observed a member of staff working with children.
- The inspector talked with the supervisor, staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's learning records, the self-evaluation form, a selection of policies and other records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Rachel Cornish

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. The manager ensures that staff routinely undertake checks to help to minimise any hazards and that the environment is safe for children to play. He ensures there is enough first-aid qualified staff to respond to any accidents promptly and that they follow correct procedures. The manager encourages staff to undertake training and uses staff meetings to keep their good knowledge updated. Recent training has led to a better understanding of how to use natural resources to help toddlers learn new words. The manager gathers the views of staff, parents and children to help to accurately set targets and identify areas to develop to help to improve children's experiences. The management team uses the information gathered from children's assessments well to accurately monitor the progress they make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly assess and observe children's daily achievements. They confidently follow children's interests in the activities they provide, helping to capture children's attention and their motivation to learn. Children are inquisitive and thoroughly enjoy the outdoor experiences, such as mud kitchen play. They happily fill containers with mud and water collected in buckets from the stream to make a 'cup of tea'. Staff help children to develop a good understanding of mathematical concepts. For example, they encourage children to count the number of children and adults present. Younger children learn new words and use them in context while they explore. Children develop a good understanding of the natural world around them and how to manage risk to keep themselves safe.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff show great enthusiasm in their work with children. They have a caring nature and children seek them to engage in their play, sharing strong bonds with them. Children understand the clear routines and expectations. They know what to expect and feel comfortable about what will happen next. For example, older children independently wash their hands and collect a bowl and cup for snack time. Mealtimes are highly positive learning experiences for children. They enjoy sitting and talking to their friends while they eat their packed lunches. Staff encourage children to learn how to swing themselves and to use ropes to climb up the banks of a stream to help their physical development. Children behave well. They understand expectations and quickly learn the pre-school values.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy the activities available and show sustained levels of interest in them. Older children willingly engage in learning experiences, such as making marks to support their early writing skills. They eagerly take part in imaginative activities, such as selling each other ice cream from an imaginary shop. Toddlers eagerly explore their environment, investigating how a pulley works as they fill an attached basket. By the time children leave the pre-school, they are ready for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY459642
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1069211
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	82
Name of registered person	The Outdoor Learning Company Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP901385
Date of previous inspection	5 March 2014
Telephone number	07909241898

The Forest Pre-School and Outdoor Adventurers Holiday Club registered in 2013. It operates from the Reading Room and attached woodland space within the Hinton Admiral estate in Hinton in the New Forest, Hampshire. The pre-school opens each weekday for 48 weeks per year, with opening times from 8am until 4.30pm from Monday to Thursday and from 8am until midday on Friday. The Outdoor Adventurers Holiday Club runs a few days each week during the school holidays, with opening hours from 9.30am until 3.30pm. The pre-school employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. One member of staff has also gained early years professional status, while another holds qualified teacher status. The setting follows the forest school outdoor learning ethos.

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