

The Lawns Children's Nursery @ Chard School

CHARD SCHOOL, Monmouth House, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1QA



Inspection date	12 March 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The strong management team leads an enthusiastic staff team that is eager to keep developing its practice. The new manager has already implemented several new practices to help staff provide consistently good-quality outcomes for children.
- Children gain an excellent knowledge of keeping themselves and others safe. For instance, older children helped to risk assess the garden. They quickly identified that the wet climbing frame could cause children to slip and put it out of bounds until it was dry.
- Staff skilfully help children of all ages to become highly independent and develop their skills through managing age-appropriate tasks. For example, older children prepare a healthy snack to share, toddlers help sweep the floors, and babies remove their shoes.
- All children make good progress in their learning and development from their starting points. Staff make good use of their observations and partnerships with parents to have a secure knowledge of each child's individual learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently help younger children to develop a greater awareness of shapes and sizes, and older children to know the total of groups when there is one more or one less.
- Staff miss opportunities to extend older children's use of books to develop their learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help younger children to develop a greater awareness of shapes and sizes, and older children to know the total of groups when there is one more or one less
- support older children in using books to develop their learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the owner and manager, and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke with staff, parents and children, and took account of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the safety of the premises.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records, and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team evaluates the provision accurately and continues to identify even better ways to support children and their families. The new manager provides effective coaching and training for staff. For example, through identifying the need for older children to gain better muscle control to support their writing skills, she has taught staff good daily exercises to use with children. Once staff are secure in their knowledge of new initiatives, she enables them to take a lead according to their strengths and develop the ideas further. The managers monitor children's overall development successfully. They work effectively with the special educational needs coordinator to ensure children receive any additional support they need to help them catch up quickly. Parents confirm that they receive good information to support their children's learning at home. Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff have a good knowledge of what to do to if children are at risk of harm. Staff carry out good risk assessments in all areas of the premises. They regularly check sleeping babies to ensure they remain safe. The manager monitors any accidents to children and uses this information well to minimise risks further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations of children's development well to plan challenging activities using children's interests to motivate their learning. For example, older toddlers noticed that the naan bread at lunch was different to bread they usually eat. Later, staff helped them to make their own naan and explore its ingredients. Staff used children's fascination with threading well, which led to finding out about spiders and their webs. Staff engage older children in group games and discussions, supporting their concentration, speaking and listening skills really well. Staff help children to make predictions and test their ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely respectful of babies' and children's routines and care needs. They ensure children feel valued and have exceptionally high self-esteem. Staff in the baby room are extremely gentle and are highly responsive to babies' needs. The manager and staff have enhanced babies' physical and emotional development extremely well. For example, they have recently implemented baby yoga, which has significantly aided children's settling in and bonding with their key person. The babies thoroughly enjoy this relaxing intimate experience. Through research, staff are very knowledgeable about the differences in young children's ability to understand their feelings and those of other people. They expertly support older children in resolving conflict for themselves. Staff plan a highly stimulating environment, which children take pride in helping to maintain.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills and a positive attitude to learning that prepare them well for their next stage of learning and school. Children have exceptionally strong positive relationships with each other and people in their community. Babies and toddlers have a strong desire to explore and experiment, and older children have good opportunities to learn about the natural world. Children are confident communicators.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479736
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1126241
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	76
Name of registered person	The Lawns Childrens Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533836
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01460 73444

The Lawns Children's Nursery @ Chard School registered in 2014. It operates from the grounds of Chard Independent School, in Chard, Somerset. The nursery is open all year round, Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm. There are 13 members of staff. Of these, the nursery owner has early years professional status, one member of staff holds an early years qualification at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 5, and eight staff hold qualifications at level 3.

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