

Sunflower Playgroup

Yeo Valley School, Derby Road, BARNSTAPLE, Devon, EX32 7HB



Inspection date

20 March 2018

Previous inspection date

15 June 2015

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 committed manager and staff evaluate and reflect on their practice well. They seek the views of parents and work closely together to help identify areas to improve further.
- Staff have a strong understanding of how children learn. They provide a broad range of stimulating activities to support children's next steps in learning. All children, including those who receive additional funding and those with special educational needs, make good progress from their starting points.
- Overall, staff develop good partnerships with parents and other professionals. For example, parents receive regular newsletters and staff give ideas to parents to support home learning. Staff share important information with other settings that children attend, which ensures continuity in their care and learning.
- Staff are positive role models who provide children with clear rules and boundaries. Children behave well and are kind and thoughtful to each other. They show that they feel emotionally secure by, for example, eagerly sharing their thoughts with visitors.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always gain sufficiently detailed information about children's learning from parents when children first start, to help them identify starting points in their learning as fully as possible.
- The manager does not monitor the progress of different groups of children, to identify and address possible gaps in their achievement as swiftly as she can.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gain more detailed information from parents about children's learning when they first start, to gain a better awareness of their individual starting points and learning needs
- track and review the progress of different groups of children, to identify any trends and patterns in their learning, and target planning and support to help close any gaps as swiftly as possible.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff engaged in activities, indoors and outdoors, and talked to them at appropriate times.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager. The inspector met with the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection to discuss how she monitors and supports staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation, including policies and children's records.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Petra Morgan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff are knowledgeable about how to respond if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The manager supports the continued professional development of staff well and offers good guidance and supervision. For example, after training, staff have increased the opportunities children have to recognise familiar words and initial sounds in words. The manager uses additional funding efficiently to help children who need further support to catch up with their peers. For example, she has purchased resources to help children develop their imaginations and physical skills further. Overall, the manager monitors the progress that individual children make well, to secure their continued progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children arrive keen to start their day and ready to learn. They are imaginative and enjoy acting out situations during role play. For example, children delight in deciding where to go on holiday and pack a rucksack full of items to take with them to 'have a picnic'. Staff provide a variety of experiences that supports children to develop their mathematical understanding. For example, staff introduce children to the names of shapes as they make models, and children count how many of their friends are at the playgroup. Staff talk to children, effectively adapting their questions and speech in accordance with children's ages to enhance their understanding of words and ideas. They give children plenty of time to think and respond to questions, which supports children's communication skills well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy, confident and motivated to learn. Staff know the individual children well and are perceptive to their needs. For example, they notice immediately when children become quiet and offer caring support, which successfully encourages children to join in. Staff support children's personal independence and physical skills well, such as through teaching them to pour their own drinks, and balance and climb. They praise children for their efforts and achievements, which helps develop children's self-esteem. Staff encourage children to brush their teeth after they have eaten their lunch and demonstrate how to do this using a large set of teeth. This supports children's understanding of healthy lifestyles effectively.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain important skills that prepare them for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. All children thoroughly enjoy books and stories. They sit and listen intently to lively and interactive storytelling sessions and join in with repeated refrains from favourite books. Older children recognise their names and numerals, link sounds with letters and begin to write their names on their work.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106380
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1088985
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	27
Name of registered person	Sunflower Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP907887
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2015
Telephone number	01271 327 377

Sunflower Playgroup registered in 1992. It is based in purpose-built premises within the grounds of Yeo Valley County Primary School, in the centre of Barnstaple. The playgroup is open from 9am until 3pm each weekday during term time only. There are currently three members of staff. The manager holds early years professional status and two members of staff hold a qualification at level 6. The playgroup provides free early years education to two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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