

The Folly Nursery

Church Road, Ilton, Ilminster, TA19 9EY



Inspection date

4 April 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 manager is a strong role model for staff. She leads by example, particularly when she is working directly with the children. She manages children's behaviour extremely well.
- Staff throughout the nursery provide particularly good support for children's mathematical development. For instance, they reinforce language of size and shape with young children. Older children recognise numbers and count the total objects in groups.
- Staff are exceptionally gentle and reassuring. They help children, particularly babies, to have extremely secure attachments. They meet children's emotional and physical needs very competently. They provide highly skilful encouragement for children to become independent and to develop an extremely positive attitude to trying new skills.
- Children make good progress. Staff make regular, good observations to know what children can do and plan challenging activities. The manager monitors children's development effectively to identify any gaps and ensure they receive additional support to catch up.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although teaching is good overall, staff development is not sufficiently focused on enhancing the quality of teaching of less confident staff to an even higher level.
- Staff do not obtain sufficiently detailed information from parents on where children are in their learning when they first start, to strengthen 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:

- focus staff development more effectively on supporting less confident staff and enhance the quality and consistency of their teaching even further
- extend the information gained from parents on children's learning when they first start, to have a fuller picture of their learning needs as soon as they start nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with parents and staff and took account of the nursery's improvement plans.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and carried out two joint observations.
- 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

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures all staff attend health and safety training and have a secure knowledge of how to protect and promote children's welfare. They know what to do if children are at risk of harm and follow good procedures. The manager deploys staff well to ensure children are well supervised and able to learn indoors and outdoors, according to their own preferences. She evaluates the provision well and effectively identifies how she can enhance the provision further. For example, significant changes to the environment have enhanced children's well-being. Targeted professional development has helped senior staff to engage older children in stories more effectively. The manager actively encourages good partnerships with other providers in order for staff to work together consistently to support children's learning well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their planning effectively, overall, to help children build on what they can already do. They help children develop good physical and early writing skills. For example, they support young children well in using paint, different types of brushes and their hands to explore the marks they make. Older children work together to make plans for their constructions. Staff encourage children effectively to find different ways of completing a task, such as toddlers using a toy hammer to knock down pegs or pushing them down with their hands. Staff help children successfully to make predictions and test their ideas. For example, older children find out whether the large water wheel or the small one with three wheels works faster.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff provide excellent support for older children who need additional help in managing their feelings. For example, they skilfully help them to realise that they need to use words to explain what is upsetting them. Staff are highly successful as they encourage them to think about the best solution when conflicts occur. Meals are extremely sociable occasions, where children learn outstanding manners. Staff are excellent role models as they help children to develop a very safe and healthy lifestyle. For example, they eat the same freshly cooked, nutritional food as the children. They very sensitively encourage older children to keep trying different foods. For example, they comment on how children now eat a greater range of food. Older children have an excellent awareness of the effect of exercise and healthy eating on their bodies. They have an exemplary understanding of using a wide range of tools safely and assess risks for themselves very successfully.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills that prepare them well for their next stage of learning and school. Babies are inquisitive and enjoy exploring using all their senses. Older children are extremely independent and develop highly positive and successful relationships. Children persevere with new skills and are eager to join in with activities. Babies respond well to adults' interactions, babbling and smiling. Older children extend their vocabulary and engage in discussions that spark their interest. They are confident communicators.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY499936
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1053065
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	The Folly Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901155
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07740 194907

The Folly Nursery registered in 2016 and is based in Ilton, near Ilminster, Somerset. It is one of two privately owned nurseries. The nursery operates from 7.45am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks a year. There are six members of staff who work with the children. Of these, one holds a qualification at degree level and the rest hold an early years qualification at level 3. The nursery provides funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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