

Pathways Day Nursery

Pathways Nursery, 194 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4QE



Inspection date

9 April 2018

Previous inspection date

14 July 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 are reflective of their practice and continually adapt the environment and resources to improve outcomes for children. For example, they provide interesting role-play opportunities, such as a doctor's surgery, that reflect children's current interests.
- Staff assess children's levels of development accurately and plan enjoyable activities that help children to achieve the next steps in their learning well. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children form strong bonds with staff and each other. Staff encourage them to talk about their day and listen carefully to each other as they sit together at snack time, for example. Children become confident communicators and develop good social skills.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. There is an effective two-way flow of information about children's development that promotes a consistent approach to children's learning and care. For example, staff make helpful suggestions about activities to enjoy at home that strengthen children's learning well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff do not extend activities for older children to challenge them further and help them to make even better progress in their learning.
- There are few opportunities for children to engage in energetic physical play to extend their physical development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more challenge for older children during activities, to help them to make even better progress in their learning
- provide more opportunities for children to enjoy energetic play to extend their physical skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff engaged in activities with children indoors and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching and learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including the nursery's policies and children's records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children and took account of their views.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know the signs that might lead them to be concerned about a child's welfare. They are clear about local safeguarding procedures. The manager and staff are vigilant about children's health and safety. They follow effective procedures to keep children safe and secure, including maintaining ratios, respecting confidentiality and recording accidents. The manager recruits and supervises staff well. She is well qualified in childcare and shares her knowledge and skills effectively to provide good support to staff in their professional development. The manager monitors children's development thoroughly and promptly notices any gaps in their learning. She uses funding effectively and works in good partnership with outside agencies to help all children achieve their full potential, overall. Positive relationships with local schools support children to move on in their education confidently.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn through play and provide good support for children's learning. For example, children enthusiastically search for dinosaur bones in the sand, developing their curiosity and imaginations. Staff skilfully encourage older children to compare the sizes of the bones and decide if they are bigger than their own, supporting their mathematical development well. Younger children enjoy the sensory experiences of scooping the sand and using brushes to make their discoveries. They handle tools and equipment skilfully and develop good manipulative skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a stimulating learning environment with a good range of resources for children to explore and investigate. Children enjoy activities and become enthusiastic learners. Staff are good role models and treat children with kindness and consideration. They provide gentle encouragement for children to share, take turns and cooperate in play. Children follow good hygiene routines and learn to adopt healthy lifestyles. For example, staff demonstrate how to brush their teeth after meals and talk to them about why this is important. Children develop a sense of belonging in the nursery and gain a good understanding of the lives of others in different communities. For example, they learn words in different languages and take part in interesting activities during a 'Mexican Day' as they gain a good understanding about the wider world.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the skills they need for future learning. They become independent and manage their own personal care with confidence in good preparation for their eventual move on to school. Older children recognise the letters in their names and form letters with increasing accuracy. Younger children show interest in making marks and enjoy exploring creative resources. Children develop good early writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117137
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1070168
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Vicki Cross
Registered person unique reference number	RP902902
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2014
Telephone number	01752 700164

Pathways Day Nursery opened in 1989 and registered under the current management in 2001. It is a private, family run nursery, and is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are four members of staff who work with the children, including the owner. All staff hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3. The owner holds early years professional status.

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