

Southmead Saplings

Somerset house, Southmead Hospital, Southmead Road, Bristol, BS10 5NB



Inspection date

30 May 2018

Previous inspection date

11 August 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 management team is keen to provide quality care and education for all children. The team reflects well on practice and provision, and listens to feedback from children, parents and staff to identify improvements.
- Managers and staff have made positive changes to resources and layouts of the play rooms, to better meet the needs and interests of the children.
- Staff build outstanding partnerships with parents. They regularly share information, use children's experiences from home in the setting to enhance learning and offer suggestions for supporting individual children extremely well. Children benefit from highly consistent care tailored to meet their needs.
- Staff monitor children's progress well from the start. They make accurate assessments about children's learning, review achievements to help them plan appropriate next steps in learning and rapidly identify when children may need extra support. All children, including those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not encourage children to talk about what and how they are playing, to better support their thinking and learning.
- Staff working with the older children do not consistently provide clear messages about what they would like children to do at group times, to make sure they are ready to join in and take part effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff to encourage children to speculate, test ideas and develop thinking skills, to enhance further children's learning and development
- improve the ways staff organise group times for the older children to help children understand what is expected of them and to make sure they are ready to learn from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors, and talked to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written testimonials.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the two deputies, one in the pre-school room and one in the toddler room.
- The inspector had a leadership and management meeting with the manager and nominated individual.
- The inspector looked at paperwork, including staff qualifications, children's details, accident and medication records, as well as, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Anita McKelvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager monitors staff well and supports ongoing professional development for everyone. She has attended training to understand better how to track children's progress. She has used this well to target training for supporting younger children coming into the setting and helping those children who have SEN and/or disabilities. In addition, all staff have attended training for using sign language to help children with communication difficulties and those who speak English as an additional language. Safeguarding is effective. The manager has updated policies to reflect the new legislation for handling personal data and shared this with staff and parents. All staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and know what to do in the event of concerns about a child.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff working with the children know them well and plan varied activities and experiences to meet their learning and development needs effectively. Babies are creative and have fun exploring and developing skills for early writing. For example, they clap their hands to make 'snow' and copy patterns drawn by staff in the tray filled with shaving foam. Children enjoy favourite stories, using words, signs and actions to retell what happened when Goldilocks visited the bears. Staff support children's mathematical development outdoors. For instance, they encourage children to count how many spades of sand it takes to fill different containers, and compare how tall the different sandcastles are.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff plan innovative activities to help children learn about helping and respecting others. For example, older children work in pairs to go round an obstacle course. One child has a blindfold and the other leads them, giving directions and making sure they do not trip up. Afterwards, staff support children to talk about what it feels like and how they help each other. Staff encourage all children's independence skills and confidence in managing routine tasks. For example, children choose the food they want and staff offer praise and encouragement as children use fingers, spoons, knives and forks to eat. Children's behaviour is good.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners who are keen to explore their environments. Babies have fun working out how to climb up the steps to the slide and then giggle loudly as they come down on their tummies. Older children discover that they can fill plastic cups with water, then squeeze them to create splashes like 'raindrops'. They laugh when others move quickly away to avoid being splashed. Children experiment and use their imaginations well. For example, they work out how to 'transform' toy cars into robots and then seek out the 'baddies' to put them in jail. Children are well prepared for moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY248911
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	1128663
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	119
Name of registered person	North Bristol NHS Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP521097
Date of previous inspection	11 August 2015
Telephone number	0117 414 2540

Southmead Saplings registered in 2002. The setting operates from hospital buildings at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. The nursery is open from 7am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays, all year round excluding bank holidays. The trust employs 22 staff who work directly with the children. Of these, 15 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, two at level 5, two at level 4 and 11 at level 3.

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