

Barn Owls Nursery

Barnhayes Farm, Frome St. Quintin, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0HG



Inspection date	6 November 2018
Previous inspection date	26 April 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Children benefit from extended periods of outdoor play where they develop their independence, strong levels of confidence and good physical skills. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff are caring and lead by example. Children follow this positive role model and look after each other. Older children help their younger friends.
- The provider supports staff's professional development well. For example, staff attend regular training that has a positive impact on their practice and on outcomes for children.
- Partnership with parents is strong. Staff keep parents well informed about children's progress and provide advice and support if needed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sleep time is not as well organised as it could be and children take a while to settle, as some become distracted.
- While the outdoor area provides good opportunities for children to learn, explore and investigate, staff do not consistently extend and challenge children's learning to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and improve children's sleep time to enable them to settle and rest as soon as they need to
- implement planned improvements to the outdoor environment to enable staff to extend and challenge children's learning and development even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to staff and children during the inspection and observed their interactions, play and learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider to discuss safeguarding, recruitment, staff practice and children's learning and development.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views about the provision.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff records, the setting's action plan, key policies, and children's development records.

Inspector
Anne Mitchell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The provider and her staff have made good improvements since the last inspection. For example, they use information from parents effectively to inform their planning. In addition, all staff have a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding matters. They update their training and understand what to do if they have any concerns about a child. Safeguarding is effective. The provider works closely with staff, monitoring their practice effectively and checking children's progress. The team works closely with parents and professionals to help all children meet their potential. The provider is a supportive mentor to her staff. Regular meetings and training opportunities enable staff to offer children good learning experiences. For example, recent training has enabled staff to use children's storytelling to extend their learning. The team uses an ongoing action plan to identify areas to develop and improve. There are close links with local schools and nurseries to enable consistency and a smooth transition for children moving to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use 'in the moment' planning, which allows children to choose their activity and staff then join them and support them in their play and learning. Staff then make observations about what children have learned. Children are involved and focused. They spend much of the time outside, dressed appropriately for outdoor learning. They use their imaginations well. For example, two friends pretend to be flying helicopters, describing their clothing, helmets and headphones. Others make ice creams in the mud kitchen and demand 50 pounds for a strawberry ice cream. Babies happily point at animal pictures in a storybook making sounds. Staff provide 'loose parts play', indoors and outdoors, where they enable children to use their physical skills and creativity with nuts and bolts, wheels, pipes, planks and bricks, in a range of different ways. Staff interact positively with children, encouraging them to develop their natural curiosity, in line with the setting's vision.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system works well, enabling children to settle well and make close relationships with a special adult. Older children help to serve their younger friends at lunch. They play together well, taking turns and sharing nicely. Staff support babies' emotional well-being effectively. Even those who have just started at the nursery are happy to explore the toys and smile at their friends.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children develop the skills they need for starting school. They are independent, behave well and manage their personal care well. Babies explore with confidence. For example, they move around the water tray outside, holding on to the side, then lean across splashing with both hands in the water. Even the youngest children quickly gain the confidence to explore independently in readiness for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361933
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10077362
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Legg, Sarah Jayne
Registered person unique reference number	RP904440
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2018
Telephone number	01935 83177

Barn Owls Nursery registered under the current ownership in 2007. This privately owned nursery is situated in Frome St Quintin, Dorset. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery owner is also the manager and holds early years professional status and the Montessori teaching qualification. She employs three staff. Of these, one holds an early years degree and two hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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