

Merchistoun Minnows

Merchistoun Hall, 106 Portsmouth Road, Horndean, Waterlooville,
Hampshire PO8 9LJ



Inspection date	16 January 2019
Previous inspection date	22 March 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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

This provision is good

- Staff introduce exciting new topics and use good teaching techniques to build on children's knowledge. They successfully educate children about the world they live in. Children are enthusiastic and absorb themselves in learning. They ask insightful questions about the weather and about different seasons of the year.
- Staff promptly assess children when they start at the setting. They use their experience and their knowledge of how children grow to identify any obvious developmental issues. Staff are quick to involve appropriate agencies in children's care. Children progress at a good rate.
- Older children understand the daily routines and staff are quick to help young children to develop their understanding, such as when they show visual prompts. Staff patiently guide children through activities they will take part in during the day. All children fully understand what to expect and they settle into play very quickly.
- The manager invites comments from the staff team about how she can secure continuous improvement. She also acts on helpful suggestions made by the local advisory teachers.
- Staff demonstrate thoughtful behaviour and they remind children to be polite. All children speak kindly to others and they help their friends.
- Staff have not established strong links with teaching staff at the local school. They do not share all details about the individual support children need.
- Staff do not clearly share all details with parents about children's next steps of learning, so that they are able to help children make even greater progress at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen links with teaching staff at local schools to give them a full picture of children's development and to help them meet children's learning needs
- develop systems to share all details about children's next steps of learning with parents, to help them further support their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching in the indoor and outdoor area of the pre-school.
- The inspector and the manager observed a planned activity during the inspection.
- The inspector accessed children's learning information and she spoke to staff about individual support they offer children.
- The inspector and the manager met for a discussion about the management of the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents. She asked for their opinions about the pre-school.

Inspector

Julie Bruce

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Following the last inspection, the provider reassessed staff training needs. She sent a number of staff on first-aid courses. Now, regardless of where children are in the building, there is always a member of staff nearby with an appropriate paediatric first-aid qualification. Safeguarding is effective. The manager prioritises safeguarding and frequently checks that all staff know how to identify children at risk of harm. She talks to staff about child protection cases in the news. They discuss as a group how they would respond if they were in a similar situation. As a staff group, they have found it helpful to keep an open dialogue about safeguarding and they regularly learn new information. Risk assessments are thorough. The staff precisely record details of all accidents and the manager carefully reviews the circumstances and responds appropriately. For example, if the equipment is not suitable for all children they make changes. The manager ensures that all staff understand what is expected of them in their role. For instance, she talks to them about the safe use social media.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The staff make the most of opportunities to introduce children to letters and make sure children are familiar with different types. For instance, they encourage children to self-register. Children confidently identify their own names and other letters in the play area. They also request familiar books. Staff routinely plan suitably challenging activities for all children. For example, they help children to design mittens. Staff encourage children to use their speech skills. Children talk about reasons they have decided to decorate the gloves with specific shapes. Staff are enthusiastic about teaching mathematics. They include as many opportunities as possible for all children to talk about numbers, such as when they count their friends during group time.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have evaluated how to increase opportunities for children to develop their independence skills. They now encourage children to put on their own aprons, coats and shoes, and children persevere until they complete tasks. Staff teach children how to keep themselves and others safe, for example when they use scissors to cut fabric. Staff talk to children about how to safely pass scissors to friends. Staff consistently promote the positive effects of physical play. For example, they provide chances for children to access the outdoor area in all weathers. Children particularly enjoy physically demanding activities. They load wheelbarrows with their toys of their choice.

Outcomes for children are good

All groups of children attain well, including those who are in receipt of extra funding. They identify colours in their immediate environment and make choices about their personal favourites. Children participate in many activities that they will also take part in when they move to school, and they work in groups of different sizes. All children are confident and happy to talk to familiar adults.

Setting details

Unique reference number	110340
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10084835
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	17
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Horndean Community Association Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517964
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2018
Telephone number	023 92597114

Merchistoun Minnows registered in 1998. It operates from Merchistoun Hall, in Horndean, Hampshire. The pre-school opens each weekday during school term time, from 9am to 3pm. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are three members of staff employed to work with the children, including the manager. Of these, one is a qualified teacher and two staff hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3.

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