

Down in The Woods Pre-School Ltd



The Annexe, Chichester Walk, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1ST

Inspection date	1 March 2019
Previous inspection date	21 April 2016

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

- The manager is fully committed to the continual development of the nursery. She and the staff are passionate about their work and are motivated to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.
- Staff pay high regard to children's personal, social and emotional development. They get to know children well and build strong bonds with them. Staff take time to talk to parents, getting to know the family's background and their child's experiences. Children settle quickly and are happy, confident and eager to learn.
- Partnerships with parents are very positive. Staff routinely share children's learning experiences and provide helpful tips and ideas on how parents can support their children's learning at home.
- Children behave well. Staff are good role models and sensitively help children to understand expected boundaries and acceptable behaviour. Consequently, children learn how to share, take turns and respect each other.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to support children's early writing skills.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to extend children's learning in mathematics, in particular with regard to space, shape and measure.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for early writing skills to better prepare children for school
- extend staff knowledge to support children's mathematical skills further, in particular with space, shape and measure.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, both indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Wilson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff attend training in child protection and wider safeguarding issues, and have a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child. Effective arrangements help to secure early intervention and support for children, if this is required. Staff are qualified or are working towards attaining a qualification. All staff are supported well by the manager. She uses a variety of systems to promote continuous staff development. For example all staff complete observations of practice and provide feedback to improve the already good quality of teaching. Staff access a range of mandatory and enhanced training courses, which has a positive impact on staff practice. For example staff have learned ways to support children's communication and listening skills. Strong partnerships with external agencies and services help to meet children's individual needs and promote their safety and welfare. Parents speak very highly of the setting. They comment positively about how their children have 'grown in confidence' and are 'learning new things every day'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of information gathered from parents when children first start at the pre-school. They accurately identify what children can do from the start and establish their interests. Staff complete regular observations of children as they play and track their progress effectively. Staff plan well for children's individual learning needs. High priority is given to helping children develop their communication and language skills. For example, staff model and repeat words and phrases. Staff talk and listen carefully to children as they play and during group activities. Children quickly develop their confidence as they contribute and take part in circle time. Staff introduce new vocabulary, alongside visual aids and actions, to help children understand.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children confidently enter the safe, welcoming and well-organised environment and settle quickly to their choice of play. They are supported successfully by staff, which helps to make sure children remain engaged and focused for sustained periods of time. Staff praise children for their achievements. This helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff support children to gain an understanding of people, their community and the wider world. Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills as they use scooters, climb and kick balls.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They talk confidently to visitors about what they are doing. Children are learning to do things for themselves. For example, they can put their own coats on and manage their personal needs. This helps prepare them for the next stage in their learning and the eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350656
Local authority	Poole
Inspection number	10073888
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Down In The Woods Pre-School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP522457
Date of previous inspection	21 April 2016
Telephone number	07787954387

Down in The Woods Pre-School Ltd opened approximately 30 years ago under previous ownership, and re-registered in 2007 under sole ownership. It operates from a purpose-built building in Merley, Wimborne. The pre-school is open from 9am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday, during term time only. In addition, there is an after-school club from 3.15pm to 5.30pm during term time, and a holiday club that operates from 9am to 5.30pm during school holidays. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. There are nine members of staff, including the manager. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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