

Wrens Nursery

Hooke Court, Beaminster DT8 3NX



Inspection date	1 May 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager and staff work exceptionally well together as a strong team. They continually evaluate their practice and make valuable improvements. For instance, they have helped staff develop very effective key-person skills. Staff liaise closely with parents to support their key children's specific individual interests through play.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their play and achieve excellent progress through their eager exploration and investigation of highly motivating, innovative activities and resources. The manager and staff monitor children's achievements significantly well in continual liaison with parents and other settings children attend.
- Children's behaviour is excellent. They flourish in the nurturing care of the reassuring, friendly staff, who encourage and praise children's skills exceptionally well. Children feel valued and important in their care and develop very positive self-esteem.
- Staff form extremely strong partnerships with parents and actively seek their views. For instance, in liaison with parents they have identified more ways to encourage children's understanding of simple technology, using resources that reduce use of screen time.
- Staff encourage children's understanding about 'people who help us' significantly well. For example, children have great fun playing in the nursery 'fire station' role-play area. They listen to a visiting police officer talk to them about keeping safe, excitedly activate the siren on her police car and learn the number to ring for the emergency services.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider further ways to enable children to benefit even more from their learning opportunities, particularly within group activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's interactions in play indoors and outdoors and discussed their learning and development with staff.
- The inspector viewed documentation, including operational policies and procedures and required records such as staff qualifications and first-aid certificates.
- The inspector took into account the spoken and written views of parents.
- The inspector undertook two joint observations of activities with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager, including about self-evaluation and how this helps staff make continual improvements.

Inspector
Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager is highly supportive of her staff and actively encourages their understanding of their roles and responsibilities. For example, staff have a very secure awareness of safeguarding issues and prioritise how they protect children's welfare. The manager supports staff's individual expertise extremely well, such as with ongoing training. For instance, staff have successfully raised their awareness of how to recognise and support children's differing behaviours. However, they do not organise all larger group activities, such as circle or story times, as well as possible to consistently engage all children's participation to the highest level.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff promote children's language skills and their understanding of nature exceptionally well. For example, younger children eagerly tell staff that a caterpillar makes a cocoon. Older children talk confidently about creatures that lay eggs, such as snakes. They examine leaves and twigs with great interest and describe a leaf as 'spiky'. Children like to walk over the nearby 'trip trap' bridge and look for the fish swimming in the pond. Staff encourage children's imaginations significantly well. For instance, children enjoy going on a 'bear hunt' through the nursery grounds and decide whether to go 'over', 'under' or 'through' the 'squelchy mud' or the 'swishy, swashy grass'. Older children like to put on a show for their friends and demonstrate their excellent 'hula hooping' skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff support children's physical well-being extremely effectively and make excellent use of resources within the grounds to provide exciting opportunities for children to exercise. For instance, older children work cooperatively lifting and carrying large branches to make a tree den in the wooded area. Younger children gain confidence walking across different surfaces, for example an uneven field, or balancing along a fallen branch. Staff are highly skilled at helping children to be kind and considerate to others. For example, they show very caring attitudes to 'Ginger', an orphaned lamb, and feed her milk from a large bottle. Older children carefully chop up apples to make some cakes and share these with their friends. They hold the hands of younger children on walks to help keep them safe.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for their move to school. They quickly gain high levels of independence. For instance, older children show pride as they put their artwork onto a display board. Younger children are keen to help put their coats and boots on. Children are highly motivated to learn. For example, older children listen intently to the initial sounds of familiar words and begin to recognise those that rhyme, such as 'cat' and 'sat'. They develop excellent pencil control and form recognisable letter and number shapes. Younger children help staff count 'one, two, three and four' plastic ducks floating in the water tray. Older children excitedly use a stop watch to time how long they can keep hoops spinning around their waists.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539930
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10079982
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	27
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Hooke Court Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP539929
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01308862879

Wrens Nursery registered as a limited company in November 2016, having been previously registered as a partnership since 2003. It is situated in Hooke, Dorset. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 3.30pm, during term times only. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. There are seven staff employed. The manager holds early years professional status and four staff hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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