

Inspection of Ottertots Day Care Nursery

East Hill, Ottery St. Mary, Devon EX11 1QH

Inspection date: 2 December 2019

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The staff demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm in their roles. They draw on their professional knowledge and experience well to plan an enjoyable curriculum across each of the seven areas of learning. Staff provide quality childcare in a friendly and welcoming nursery that values the benefits of outdoor play and learning. Planning is based on children's interests, and staff plan activities to help target specific needs.

Children benefit from a range of outdoor play and learning experiences. For example, staff plan regular outings to the local farm, beaches and areas of interest. Older children have regular forest school sessions. Staff transport children safely, using the nursery's minibus. Staff are responsive to the needs of children and their families, and they plan opportunities that help them prepare for their next stage in learning. Children enjoy their time at the nursery. They are happy and settled, and show that they feel safe and secure with staff who know them well. For example, younger children are greeted warmly as they arrive, sharing smiles and respectful interactions as they play with toys together.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Staff plan interesting activities that help children to develop their learning in imaginative ways. For example, children hold thoughtful conversations with staff as they create stories and draw pictures together. Staff record the language children use to help them understand that words have meaning. As a result, children feel positive and motivated to learn.
- Older children enjoy group activities led by staff who are enthusiastic and who motivate their interests. For example, staff create superhero characters to help teach children how to manage risk in their play, and children explore some mathematical concepts as they stack crates into high towers during activities at circle time.
- At times, noise levels in the playrooms can prohibit children's ability to engage fully in activities and maintain their attention for the full duration. This prevents children from being able to practise speaking clearly. As a result, opportunities to use new vocabulary consistently are limited.
- Children demonstrate high levels of curiosity and enjoyment. For instance, they excitedly use walkie-talkies in the garden, and they learn new skills as they work out how to operate them and speak and hear others.
- Children have positive attitudes and respect for others. When they struggle to regulate their behaviour, staff are quick to respond and take appropriate action. For example, they remind children to slow down in case they slip. This helps children learn to manage their behaviour and keep themselves safe.
- Children have lots of opportunities to be independent and manage tasks for

themselves. For example, they choose from a range of paints to mix their own colours and explore mark making in creative ways.

- Young children are confident and enjoy exploring their developing mobility. For example, they pull themselves up on furniture to practise walking. Staff are sensitive to their needs and help encourage children to achieve their goals. Frequently, the floor has too many toys, which limits the opportunities for children who are learning to walk to take their first steps easily and safely. As a result, younger children's physical development is occasionally limited.
- Staff have good opportunities for career development and feel well supported in their roles. As a result, morale is high, and staff turnover is low, which offers good consistency of care for children and relationships with parents.
- Leaders and managers seek opportunities to develop staff's knowledge and skills continually. For example, staff attend targeted training opportunities which help to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. They benefit from effective support which helps them to reflect on their practice and develop specific roles.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The staff team has a secure knowledge of child protection issues and safeguarding concerns. Staff know the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm and know how to report their concerns. They are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and attend regular training to update their knowledge, to help them keep children safe. For example, all staff hold paediatric first-aid certificates to help ensure they know what to do in the event of an accident. There are effective procedures to manage children's individual needs, such as allergies. Managers have effective recruitment and induction processes that help them to ensure staff are suitable.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- monitor the noise levels of activities more closely to help children further develop their vocabulary and support opportunities to practise speaking clearly
- ensure the floor in the baby room is consistently well managed to maximise opportunities for young children to develop their walking more easily.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY358746
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10126018
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	1 to 10
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	118
Name of registered person	Ottertots Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527143
Telephone number	01404 815854
Date of previous inspection	19 August 2015

Information about this early years setting

Ottertots Day Care Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery is on the outskirts of Ottery St Mary, Devon. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round, excluding bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of early education funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are 32 staff. Of these, 23 staff hold early years qualifications at level 3, and three hold higher-level qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Carly Ellicott

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the day.
- The inspector held a discussion with the manager and the nominated individual on matters relating to leadership and management, and carried out a learning walk around the setting.
- Parents gave their views on the setting during discussions.
- A joint observation was completed with the manager.
- Relevant documentation was looked at, including safeguarding policies, first-aid certificates and staff's suitability checks.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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