

Inspection of Cats Whiskers Day Nursery

35 Florence Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 1HJ

Inspection date: 17 November 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children receive a warm, nurturing and friendly welcome when they arrive. They respond positively to staff and learn in a fun and safe place. Children have a positive attitude to learning and are eager to join in the activities planned for them. For example, older children watch with curiosity as they pour water onto food colouring and see the changes occur. They notice the changing colours and experiment further by adding different quantities of water. Toddlers develop large-muscle control and coordination as they use push-along toys and musical instruments.

Children have formed secure emotional attachments with all staff. Children are happy and busy throughout the day. They grow in confidence as they access the well-resourced environment, indoors and outdoors. Children move freely around the rooms to explore and develop their own ideas. They develop close friendships with others.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parents are unable to enter the nursery building. Staff use their outdoor space to provide verbal feedback to parents while maintaining social distancing guidelines. They also use electronic communications with parents to discuss their children's progress further and how to support their learning at home.

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

- The manager has a good knowledge and understanding of what she wants children to learn and achieve. She plans a varied curriculum, to build on what children know and can already do. The manager coaches and supports staff to provide children with a stimulating learning environment, indoors and outdoors. However, on occasions, staff do not follow through planned activities well enough to ensure that the learning intention is fully fulfilled.
- The special educational needs coordinators work well in partnership with parents, other agencies and staff to reduce any gaps in children's development. They quickly respond to any developmental concerns. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are fully included in all activities.
- The management team audit the use of additional funding and check that it is making the intended difference for children. As a result, children in receipt of this benefit from resources and experiences, such as music sessions, that support them to be ready for the next stage in their learning.
- Staff acknowledge when children are struggling to manage their emotions. They respond swiftly to situations where children need help with their behaviour. This successfully encourages children to return to their play. Staff role model the behaviour they expect from children and speak to each other with manners and

respect. They provide praise and encouragement and help children to make positive choices as they play.

- Staff encourage children's independence. They support children to look after their belongings and manage their own self-care needs effectively. However, the organisation of routine events, such as snack time, interrupts some children's learning.
- The manager is working on plans to improve parents' involvement in children's learning and development. This will enable staff to regularly share children's developmental progress and next steps with parents. There will also be opportunities for parents to borrow books to read to their children at home. Parents state that their children are happy and settled at the nursery. They say that the staff are 'kind, caring and professional' and regard the setting as a 'home from home' environment.
- The manager maintains regular supervision of staff and monitors their practice. She recognises the impact of COVID-19 on her team and places a high importance on children and staff well-being. Staff comment that they enjoy working at the nursery and feel well supported in their roles.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team risk assesses the premises to help maintain children's health and safety. Most staff have training in paediatric first aid. This helps them to act swiftly in a medical emergency. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and information is accessible. Designated leads for safeguarding have a secure knowledge and understanding of their role. Staff have a good knowledge of the possible signs of abuse. They understand the procedure to follow should they have concerns about a child's welfare or the behaviour of a colleague. The manager deploys staff effectively and supervises children well.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to make a clear link between the intent and delivery of planned activities, so that children are fully challenged and engaged
- improve the organisation of routine events, so that children remain engaged at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	100462
Local authority	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole
Inspection number	10125806
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	Brian Pringle & Jacqueline Pringle Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP519834
Telephone number	01202 396453
Date of previous inspection	15 April 2015

Information about this early years setting

Cats Whiskers Day Nursery registered in 2000. It is a privately owned nursery and operates from a converted house in Boscombe, Bournemouth. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two and three years. The owner employs 12 members of staff, 11 of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2 or above. The manager holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachel Cornish

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken this into account in their evaluation of the provision.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they intend for the children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- During a joint observation, the manager and the inspector evaluated the quality of education together.
- Parents provided their views to the inspector about the setting.
- A meeting was held with the management team and the inspector.

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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