

Inspection of Rainbow Nursery

The Mansion, Fore Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5RP

Inspection date: 23 February 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children flourish in this highly stimulating and nurturing nursery. They bound in excitedly, keen to explore and investigate the wide play experiences on offer. Highly professional and friendly staff, who genuinely care about the well-being of all children, greet them warmly. The nursery ensures that babies through to pre-school age children mix throughout the day to enhance their learning. Younger children learn new skills from their older peers effectively, copying and imitating them. They receive sensitive care and attention from their siblings and all children join in for 'family time'. In these groups, children make connections with each other and develop very strong relationships. This helps them to feel secure within the nursery environment.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They follow 'golden rules', such as 'kind hands and words', helping them to learn about respect for others. Children play exceptionally well together, sharing and taking turns. They skilfully solve problems and initiate ideas. For instance, children explore an 'overhead projector' and discover how to make shadows. They find out which items are transparent and those that are opaque. Staff provide children with 'paws stickers' with the new vocabulary they have learned, to prompt conversations with parents at home. Staff are highly skilful in delivering the well-targeted and child-focused curriculum. All children make excellent progress in their development.

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

- Staff ensure children's well-being is at the forefront. They know children extremely well, obtaining extensive information from parents when they first join the nursery. This helps staff to meet children's needs to a high level. For example, staff identify when children need to have their lunch early and to take a nap afterwards. They provide children with 'weighted blankets' to help them feel calm and secure.
- Children have excellent opportunities to learn about different heights and how to manage risk. They confidently climb a three-tier step ladder and enjoy rolling items through a large, elevated tube. Children cleverly work out which items will fit through the tube and those that will not. Outside, children skilfully run and roll down inclines, enjoying the sensation of being up high and then descending quickly. Children giggle when they lose a shoe on the way down.
- Staff are exceptionally skilled at promoting children's communication and language. During stories, children think of actions that link to new vocabulary, such as 'cranky', 'lanky' and 'honky tonky'. Children enjoy expressing their new-found actions through physical movements and facial expressions. Additionally, staff provide children with a 'curiosity cube' to promote language and an understanding of the world. For instance, children have high-level discussions

around items linked to cultural celebrations.

- The nursery staff provides a strong emphasis on promoting children's sensory development. Outside, older children relish in singing songs in the rain, feeling the sensation on their skin. Inside, younger children explore shaving foam and staff use this to discuss 'positive touch' and to form attachments. Children enjoy covering themselves and staff in foam and then look in the mirror laughing. Babies enjoy exploring a range of natural materials, where staff talk to them about how they feel. All children benefit from a designated sensory room.
- Staff follow children's interests exceptionally well to help develop their learning. Children decide to use pens as rolling pins to flatten out their dough. They then make marks in the dough using pens and toy cars. This extends to children building three-dimensional models together and adding sequins for features, such as windows and doors. Staff provide extra resources, such as pipe cleaners, as children develop their play.
- The nursery works superbly with the local area. Food resources shared within the community enable children and families to benefit from fresh and nutritious meals. The on-site chef complements this by making homemade bread daily.
- Senior leaders and staff are passionate in consistently improving the nursery to benefit children. They attend training around brain development and how to ensure children's learning and well-being thrive. Specific 'nurture groups' enable staff to focus on children's individual needs to ensure they make the best possible progress from their starting points.
- Children develop excellent imaginations. Staff scribe stories from children and support them to act out their narratives. This encourages children's curiosity, creativity and the freedom to express themselves.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The nursery employs highly qualified staff who have a thorough understanding of child development. They know how to recognise when a child may be at risk of harm. Frequent training, mentoring and coaching ensure that staff understand and follow rigorous child protection procedures. This helps to keep children safe from harm. Staff provide opportunities to help children understand ways to protect themselves. For instance, children use the word 'stop' if they feel uncomfortable or discomfort. Additionally, the nursery provides parents with comprehensive packs around safeguarding. These include relevant contact numbers should they have concerns about a child's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY319812
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10124429
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 at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	86
Name of registered person	The Daisy Play Centre Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517768
Telephone number	01803 863447
Date of previous inspection	8 November 2013

Information about this early years setting

Rainbow Nursery registered in 2006 and is located in Totnes. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery provides free early education funding for children aged two, three and four years. It employs 18 staff, most of whom most hold recognised childcare qualifications at level 6 and level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Joanne Steward

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 provider and has taken this into account in her evaluation of the provider.
- The manager took the inspector on a learning walk and discussed how the curriculum benefits children's learning.
- A joint observation was carried out with the manager and the inspector, where the quality of teaching was discussed.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the day.
- Written statements from parents were viewed and taken into consideration.
- A range of documentation was looked at, including staff suitability, qualifications and paediatric first-aid certificates.

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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