

Inspection of The Elves and Fairies Woodland Nursery

Edmondsham Village Hall, Edmondsham, WIMBORNE, Dorset BH21 5RF

Inspection date: 28 April 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
------------------------------	-------------

The quality of education	Good
--------------------------	-------------

Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
-------------------------	--------------------

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

Children behave exceptionally well. They take turns, show respect for each other's ideas and play beautifully together. Children thrive in the calm, well-organised environment which helps them to relax and immerse themselves in learning. They demonstrate impressive levels of attention. Children recall things they have learned in the past and relate them to their play and planned activities. They are eager to show off their knowledge. For example, older children confidently talk about the forest school rules. They practise the rules as they walk around to complete risk assessments before they start exploring the woodland area. Staff recognise children's hard work and offer praise and encouragement in return. This helps to secure the strong, affectionate bonds children have with the staff.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff are providing children with even greater support in the development of their communication and language, and social skills. Small-group activities provide children with lots of opportunities to express their own thoughts and ideas, which helps to boost their confidence. Children embrace this. They talk animatedly to staff about things they hear and see in the environment. They are keen to talk about plants and flowers, and how to use the stem of a dandelion as a whistle.

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

- Children are making good progress. This includes children who speak English as an additional language. Staff plan a challenging, varied curriculum to ensure children are well prepared for the next stage in their development. They identify and put in place positive strategies, for instance sign language or introducing positional concepts, such as 'besides' or 'next to', to support children's learning and understanding.
- Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve. They know what children can do and what each individual child needs to learn next. Children listen when staff talk to them and respond positively to requests. However, on occasions, some staff are too quick to intervene when children are problem-solving. This means children do not always gain the skills expected of them.
- Staff comment that they feel valued by the manager. There is a clear sense of teamwork, as staff support each other positively. The manager meets regularly with staff to talk to them about how they are performing within their roles. Staff and the manager identify training that would improve staff's knowledge and benefit the children. Staff attend training, including that to promote children's speech and language skills. The environment is rich in language. Staff speak quietly and calmly to the children and encourage good conversations.
- Children are eager learners and confident to try new things. For example, they participate in activities using flowers to dye fabric, hammering the flowers to

release the colours. Children learn how to use tools safely, and notice patterns on the fabric.

- Children's understanding of simple mathematics is well supported. Most activities have opportunities for counting, and recognising numbers, space or shape. Children enjoy learning mathematical language and simple sums, as activities are well planned and fun. For instance, children concentrate, counting and adding the different groups of chickens together.
- Staff place a focus on children learning about being healthy and leading an active lifestyle. Children enjoy freshly cooked meals and snacks. They discuss the benefits of eating a healthy diet as they help to chop up vegetables for snack time. Children develop their physical strength as they climb on large tyres, use rope swings, run around and ride on balance bikes.
- Staff have formed friendly, professional partnerships with parents. Parents speak highly of every aspect of the nursery. They comment that communication is very good and that their children have 'blossomed' and are keen to attend. Many spoke of how appreciative they are of the support staff give them, for example working together with other settings that children attend, such as school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager ensures that the staff receive the necessary training to give them a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. As a result, staff are alert to any matters which may raise concerns about children. They know how to report these concerns. Thorough and safe recruitment procedures are in place to check staff's suitability to work with children. The manager demonstrates a secure knowledge of matters which must be notified to Ofsted. Staff are required to complete a range of other mandatory training, such as first aid and food hygiene.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on the good learning opportunities to provide all children with the time to problem-solve, and help them to critically think, further promoting their independence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422487
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10126346
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Freer, Kirsteen Margaret
Registered person unique reference number	RP904418
Telephone number	01725517807
Date of previous inspection	16 January 2017

Information about this early years setting

The Elves and Fairies Woodland Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery operates as a forest school nursery, with Edmondsham Village Hall as the registered base. It operates Monday to Friday, from 8.45am until 4.15pm during school term times. Additional sessions run during some holiday periods for children up to the age of 11 years. The nursery accepts funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It employs 10 staff. Of these, two hold an appropriate childcare qualification at level 6, two hold a level 5 qualification and four hold a level 3 qualification.

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector met with parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the manager's intent for the curriculum.
- The manager and inspector undertook a joint observation and discussed the quality of interactions and teaching.
- The inspector spoke to staff throughout the inspection to establish their knowledge of the children's development, their intent for children's next steps and to establish how this would be implemented.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working with children.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022