

Inspection of Shaftesbury Children Centre Nursery

Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8PZ

Inspection date: 27 June 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children of all ages and abilities thrive in this inclusive nursery. They arrive happily and thoroughly enjoy learning with support from the skilled and enthusiastic staff team. Each age group has its own outdoor area where the children, some of whom do not have gardens at home, relish having space to play freely and find out about nature. For example, children use scavenger hunt sheets to tick off the bugs that they have spotted. Children are particularly well behaved. They learn about their emotions, how to regulate them and listen carefully to staff's instructions.

Children have excellent relationships with staff, which helps them to feel safe and secure at the nursery. For example, babies confidently snuggle up to staff, who rock them if this is their preferred method of going to sleep. Staff have the highest expectations of all children, whatever their starting points. They use highly effective strategies, including one-to-one support where necessary, to ensure that all children make notable progress during their time at the nursery.

The nursery remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic and accepted children from other settings to ensure continuity in their learning. Staff kept in touch with the families of those children who did not attend, sending home ideas to support the children's learning and checking on the family's welfare. Parents still drop children off at the door. Staff manage this well. A member of staff collects children one at a time and chats to the parent to ensure that key information is still shared.

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

- Staff know children exceptionally well and provide excellent levels of support for them to move on to the next steps in their individual learning. They provide thoughtfully planned resources and activities, which children relish exploring. For example, babies handle and smell real roses and toddlers thoroughly enjoy playing with toy dinosaurs and plants in the compost.
- Leaders and staff share a common understanding of what all children need to learn and the provision for children who need additional help is particularly strong. The special needs coordinator works very closely with staff to provide prompt, tailored support for children. She is proactive in building excellent links with other agencies and pursuing funding and support for children to enable them to make the best possible progress from their individual starting points. Highly effective one-to-one support is in place for those children who need extra help and staff are skilled at identifying the best way to meet their needs. For example, they have created a dedicated area children can use if they are feeling overwhelmed.
- Children develop many independent skills as they progress through the nursery. Staff foster this from a young age. Staff encourage babies to feed themselves

and older children proudly show how they put on their own coats and go to get changed by themselves when they get wet. Children operate independently and with great confidence. For example, older children help to cut up oranges and lemons to go in the water tray.

- Children who are verbal are confident communicators, who initiate conversations and chat animatedly to friends and adults. They relish listening to familiar stories and joining in with songs and rhymes. Children who struggle to sit in a group still have the opportunity to read a story with a member of staff, so that they do not miss out on this important activity.
- Children are exceptionally well behaved. For example, they show respect for others as they ask if they can share play spaces with them. Staff reinforce the rules such as sitting at the table to eat and talk a lot about sharing and taking turns as younger children learn these skills. Staff use practical strategies, such as using a sand timer, to help children understand when they need to do things.
- There is an exceptionally strong focus on children's health and well-being. Children enjoy listening to a story about an alligator cleaning their teeth and talk knowledgeably about brushing their own teeth twice a day. Staff have been working with parents to ensure that children have healthy lunch boxes. Staff provide some information to parents in their home language and plan to extend this.
- Leaders and staff work exceptionally well as a team. Staff well-being is high on the agenda and leaders have an open-door policy, so that staff can talk to them. Staff are supported well to develop their skills and improve the provision for children. They promptly implement and share what they learn at training to ensure that the rest of the team also benefits from new knowledge and skills.
- Partnerships with parents are extremely strong. Staff know parents well and provide support for them as well as their children to ensure the best outcomes for the whole family. Parents are keen to discuss the support they have received personally and comment on the amazing progress their children have made since starting at the nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is paramount. Staff refresh their training annually and discuss safeguarding matters at regular staff meetings, which keeps their knowledge up to date. They are exceptionally confident about the signs that a child may be at risk of harm and understand their responsibility to take action if they are concerned about a child. They are clear about how they would escalate their concerns outside the setting if necessary and they work closely with other agencies to protect children. Staff use imaginative ways to help children learn about safety. For example, they have painted wooden spoons red and place these around the outdoor area where ivy is growing. This reminds the children not to touch these plants.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2535359
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10208565
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	45
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Dorset Council
Registered person unique reference number	2535358
Telephone number	01747 859116
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Shaftesbury Children Centre Nursery registered in 2019. It is situated in Shaftesbury, Dorset. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm on weekdays throughout the year. It is in receipt of funding for free sessions for children aged two, three and four. There are 14 staff. Of these, 2 have early years qualifications at degree level and 11 have early years qualifications at levels 3, 4 and 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Catherine Sample

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 deputy manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with additional needs.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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