

Inspection of The Corner House Day Nursery

62 Portchester Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8LA

Inspection date: 23 February 2023

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 settle quickly and enjoy their time at this friendly nursery. They form strong attachments with the staff who know children well. Children show that they feel safe and secure, which supports their emotional well-being effectively.

Children enjoy many sensory play experiences and are encouraged to experiment with media and materials. For example, they have great fun as they explore the colours and textures of the shaving foam, water and pasta. Children excitedly tell adults how it feels: 'very soft and bubbly'. They show good hand-to-eye coordination as they carefully pour the liquids into bottles. Staff get involved with children's play and introduce new words to successfully build on children's developing language skills.

The nursery had a period of closure during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Leaders kept in touch with the families to maintain a link with the children, and provided suggestions of activities to do at home. When children returned to nursery, staff identified that some children needed help to settle and to develop their social skills. Staff helped children to develop confidence, and remain quick to notice when someone may need reassurance and a cuddle to help them try a new experience.

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

- Leaders and staff understand what they want children to learn. They plan a varied curriculum that builds on children's individual interests and helps them make good progress from their starting points. Staff liaise closely with parents and other agencies when they identify children who need additional support. This helps to ensure a shared approach to meeting children's specific needs.
- Children develop their fine motor skills as they manipulate, press and mould play dough. This helps them build their muscles for early writing. Staff provide a range of tools for the children to use with the dough, such as rollers, shapes and cutters. However, staff do not make the most of chances to introduce number, size and shape to develop children's early mathematics.
- Staff provide a calm, consistent approach to help young children learn how to manage their behaviour. For example, they reinforce the nursery 'golden rules' and give clear explanations about any unwanted behaviour. Older children are helpful and show consideration to each other in their play. Staff praise children regularly and use specific schemes, such as the 'pirate reward chart', to acknowledge when children are kind and helpful to others. This helps boost children's self-esteem.
- Children are active and enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. For example, they ride balance bicycles and show good control as they climb and balance on the

toadstools and planks. However, staff are not always consistent in their interactions with children to extend each child's learning fully.

- Older children are confident communicators. They approach the inspector to ask questions and talk about their play. Children are keen to show off their drawings of flowers and insects. Staff support children to recognise their names to help develop their early literacy skills.
- Children join in with songs, which helps develop their vocabulary. For example, babies smile and move their bodies to the rhythms and toddlers happily join in to sing a familiar song with the staff.
- Staff have established a strong partnership with parents. They comment that they are happy with the care and education their children receive. They value the support from staff with their children's development, such as potty training and managing their children's behaviour.
- Children are provided with nutritious meals prepared on the premises. Staff take account of any specific dietary needs to ensure that children stay healthy.
- Leaders undertake regular staff supervision to support staff, monitor practice and help identify training needs. They have a clear vision for the continual development of the nursery. For example, after restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders are reintroducing specific evenings for parents to visit and see their children's work.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The leaders ensure that the staff's knowledge of safeguarding is kept up to date and they understand their responsibility to safeguard children. Staff are clear about possible signs that might indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know what they should do if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Staff provide a safe and secure learning environment. Senior staff complete regular risk assessments to identify and remove any potential hazards to children in order to help keep the children safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make greater use of number, size and quantity within the children's play experiences to develop their mathematical skills
- strengthen the consistency of staff interactions with children to support and extend each child's learning fully.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317869
Local authority	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole
Inspection number	10264694
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	Cygnets Day Nurseries (Bournemouth) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP907078
Telephone number	01202 553108
Date of previous inspection	22 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

The Corner House Day Nursery registered in 2005 and is owned by Cygnets Day Nurseries Ltd. It operates from a converted house in Bournemouth, Dorset. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It receives funding for the provision for free nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 17 members of staff who work directly with the children. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. One member of staff has early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Dinah Round

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery 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 her evaluation of the setting.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching.
- A range of documentation was reviewed, including 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.

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