

Inspection of Humpty Dumpty Childcare

Brimhay, Gidleys Meadow, Dartington, TOTNES, Devon TQ9 6JZ

Inspection date: 15 February 2024

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children make good progress in their learning. Staff provide a varied curriculum because they know the children well and plan activities specifically linked to their interests and what they need to learn next. For example, older children make fossils from salt dough and model dinosaurs. They watch a film explaining when dinosaurs died and how they became fossils. Children show great interest and are really keen to contribute their knowledge of dinosaurs and fossils such as ammonites. Toddlers explore farm animals in oats, learning the different names of the animals and practising the sounds they make. Babies enjoy making marks with large chinks on paper, building their muscles in preparation for early literacy skills.

Children show high levels of confidence as they move around the welcoming nursery environment. All the children benefit from excellent outdoor facilities, where they hunt for bugs. Toddlers spend considerable time observing how slugs and woodlice move. Staff encourage them to recognise differences between slugs and snails. The children tell staff that, 'A snail has their house with them.' Children build positive relationships with the other children and the adults. They work together to build with construction blocks and show a great sense of pride when they have finished their models. Children understand the simple rules which staff display around the nursery, such as using 'kind hands' and sharing. Staff role model good manners and encourage children to share and take turns from an early age. Consequently, children's behaviour is good.

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

- Key persons develop good links with parents. They share good-quality information, including ideas on how parents can help their child's learning at home. However, prior to children moving up to their next room, key persons do not always exchange information promptly about what the children already know and can do. This means that children do not always benefit from a seamless transition which promotes continuous learning.
- All staff place a high emphasis on children's communication and language, and tailor activities to increase children's vocabulary. Staff have attended training on 'closing the word gap' and implement what they have learned in everyday play. Staff narrate what the children are doing and introduce new words and with younger children. For example, children have five familiar words each month that they practise through songs and stories. Children's communication and language skills are good.
- Children learn how to keep themselves safe. Staff give children clear explanations about how to use equipment safely and how to move around the nursery safely, particularly in the outdoor environment. The setting has a nursery teddy called 'PC Paws', which it uses to help children follow simple safety rules

such as using their 'walking feet' inside. Children show good levels of confidence negotiating the climbing equipment, for example.

- Children throughout the nursery have good opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. They participate in activities such as 'wake and shake' and yoga, supporting their physical and mental well-being. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals. All the meals are designed in conjunction with a nutritionist and take into account a no-salt and low-sugar diet to support children with their overall health and well-being. All children throughout the nursery benefit from daily opportunities to play outdoors, developing their large-muscle control while they climb, balance and use a range of tools.
- In general, children follow good hygiene routines. They know when to wash their hands and why. However, staff are not always proactive in supporting children with learning how to maintain good health and well-being, such as by blowing their own nose and disposing of the tissue appropriately. In addition, on occasions, staff put toddler's comforters on the muddy mat when they come in from outside, which children sometimes put into their mouth.
- Partnership with parents is good. Parents report that they feel there is good communication about what their children are doing and how they can help them. They also like the security of the building so that they know their children are safe.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the communication between key persons when children move up to the next room so that staff know what children need to learn next
- support children with managing their own health and well-being by teaching them good hygiene routines.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407812
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10333604
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	67
Number of children on roll	109
Name of registered person	Humpty Dumpty Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906541
Telephone number	01803 868414
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2019

Information about this early years setting

Humpty Dumpty Childcare registered in 1991 and is one of a chain of nurseries owned and operated by Old Station Nursery Group. The nursery employs 27 members of childcare staff. Of these, with the exception of two staff, all hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3, and three are qualified at level 6. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lorraine Sparey

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 their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and discussed the curriculum for each room.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed the findings.
- The inspector completed observations in the playroom and the various gardens.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection at appropriate times.
- The inspector toured the premises to establish that they are safe and secure.

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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