

Little Bears Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	106349
Inspection date	08/12/2008
Inspector	Ron Hall
Setting address	Shebbear Community School, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5SG
Telephone number	07890 814564
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Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Little Bears Pre-School opened about 1970 and operates from a Portakabin at Shebbear Community School. Shebbear village is in the triangle between the towns of Holsworthy, Hatherleigh and Great Torrington, Devon. Children attend from the village and surrounding areas. The pre-school is open on weekdays during term time, from 09.00 to 12.30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 09.00 to 15.15 on Tuesday and Thursday. Children have the use of a secure, enclosed area for outside play.

The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 14 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. There are currently 11 children aged from two to under five years on roll, three of whom receive funding for early education. The pre-school, which is managed by a committee of parents and interested others, employs two members of staff, both of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school receives support from Devon Education Services Early Years Advisors and is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. It is fully inclusive with good disabled access.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Little Bears Pre-School provides a good learning environment. It has made good progress since the last inspection and is continually improving. The curriculum it offers complies with all aspects of the Every Child Matters agenda and covers the six areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The pre-school caters for the needs of each individual and is fully inclusive.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- improve the provision further by developing a more rigorous approach to monitoring the quality of teaching and learning and the provision as a whole
- make correct assessments of children's learning and development when they start in order to plan accurately to meet children's individual needs

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that the SEN code of practice is understood and implemented by all staff (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 28/02/2009
- complete an appropriate first aid certificate (safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 28/02/2009

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Leadership and management of the pre-school are good. Management have a sound understanding and knowledge of the children's abilities and have rigorous processes in place to ensure all children develop. Since the last inspection the leader has worked hard to improve the provision overall and has made substantial progress in meeting the recommendations made. Management are aware of the need to gain first aid qualifications in line with current requirements and training has been arranged through the school.

The pre-school obtains the views of parents through regular questionnaires and daily discussions. Parents are fully supportive of the pre-school and have appreciated the work done to inform them of their children's progress. Positive comments are also made about the regular newsletter, which parents find informative and which contributes to their understanding of the provision overall. The leadership and management have yet to send out written information regarding the complaints procedure but this is well displayed on the notice board. There is a full and informative induction process on entry and the provision works well to ensure children make a good transition to school.

The staff are fully aware of all child protection issues and the safety of the children is paramount. They have instigated all current employment regulations and safeguarding procedures. The leadership and management have thorough planning, assessment and recording systems in place, ensuring the needs of all children are catered for. The provision effectively utilises the close links with the school and other agencies to meet any learning difficulties and/or disabilities the children may have, as well as acting as external moderators of their work.

The management committee needs to act more rigorously to monitor the quality of teaching and learning and of the provision in general. This would lead to more effective self-evaluation. The leader, however, keeps the management group fully informed and the new committee is willing to be more proactive. Leadership and management also acknowledge the need for more accurate baseline assessment systems and are working towards this alongside their external partners.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The quality and standards of the early years provision are good. Teaching and learning are good overall and the staff have excellent relationships with the children. The children are very happy in the pre-school and are very confident and independent learners. Although the children generally enter the pre-school demonstrating skills well below those expected for their ages, they make good progress and most children leave with skills appropriate to their ages or just a little below.

The pre-school has a good range of resources, which are well matched to the needs of the children, and has plans to purchase more outdoor equipment to match the needs of the older and more able members.

All statutory documentation is in place and staff ensure logs and registers are completed thoroughly. The children have a good understanding of health issues and make healthy eating choices. They also understand a range of safety issues and can articulate why they need to wash their hands and how to behave when crossing roads.

The activities presented are varied and adapted to each individual child's needs. The staff ensure the whole range of the EYFS curriculum is covered through a series of focused activities and extended through careful and well constructed questioning and discussion sessions. The children demonstrate good social skills and are polite at all times.

Staff have relevant qualifications and there is a robust system in place to cover for staff absence and training opportunities, which the leadership and management recognise are an important and integral part of the provision's development.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.