

# St Erth Childcare Centre

School Lane, St. Erth, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 6HN



## Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

16 September 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>	<b>3</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not always engage younger children in activities that promote purposeful and enjoyable learning experiences.
- Staff do not always use and provide visual resources to extend children's early reading and numbers skills.

### It has the following strengths

- Staff promote children's communication skills well through ongoing discussion. They listen attentively and respect children's views. As a result, children learn to cooperate and negotiate successfully to maintain harmonious play with their friends.
- Older children develop the key skills required for future learning. They help to maintain their health and safety, are socially skilled and express themselves through emerging speech and language.
- Staff establish positive links with the school. They share facilities such as the summerhouse, school playing field and library, which helps children develop confidence in their move on to school.
- Robust recruitment, induction, checking and staff supervision procedures enable management to monitor staff performance and their ongoing suitability. This results in consistency in practice and access to training that improves outcomes for children.
- Staff attend regular early years training. This increases their knowledge and skills in using resources and teaching methods to promote children's learning and development.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

### **To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:**

- provide age and stage appropriate, stimulating and challenging learning experiences for younger children

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

- provide additional visual support for children's play and learning.

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector and manager undertook a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector took account of verbal and written feedback from parents.
- The inspector sampled documentation and children's records.

## **Inspector**

Jayne Pascoe

## Inspection findings

### **How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement**

Staff know children well and provide a broad and balanced range of interesting learning experiences. However, although older children are actively engaged in play that supports their learning needs, staff overlook the needs of younger children. For example, they helped older children to make almond shortcake. They weighed, measured and mixed together the ingredients, which promotes their understanding of volume and change. Younger children took an interest and watched what the older children did. However, they were not encouraged to take part in this activity. This resulted in their behaviour deteriorating because they were not sufficiently stimulated. Assessment records show that staff monitor children's progress to identify appropriate next steps, link these to future planning and share this information regularly with parents to support home learning. However, they do not always take account of younger children's needs during everyday activities.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement**

Children form a secure attachment to their key person, which helps them to feel safe. Staff are positive role models and children are generally well behaved. However, at times when they are not included in activities, younger children display some disruptive behaviour. Staff teach children how to identify and manage potential risk, as they practise fire drills and learn about road and beach safety. Children develop healthy eating habits and enjoy plenty of fresh air and physical exercise. They learn to manage their own personal care needs in relation to their age. Children become independent and select favourite toys from labelled storage units. Outdoors, children enjoy climbing, water play, wheeled toys and a summer house. They use a range of visual prompts to support their learning. However, there are no numbers displayed outdoors and very few indoors. In addition, children cannot read the recipe when cooking, which limits their ability to take a lead role in this activity.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement**

Staff have completed safeguarding training and understand the local safeguarding procedures to follow if required. They assess and manage risk effectively, which promotes children's safety at all times. Since the last inspection, staff have improved the assessment systems to clearly show children's next steps and progress. This promotes better partnership working with parents and other early years practitioners and agencies. However, staff do not use this information well to plan challenging and stimulating activities for the younger children. Management and staff regularly evaluate the educational programme and their practice to identify areas for future improvement, such as enhancing opportunities for outdoor learning further.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY334569
<b>Local authority</b>	Cornwall
<b>Inspection number</b>	834772
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	18
<b>Name of provider</b>	Pre-School Learning Alliance
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	16 September 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	01736 755690

St Erth Childcare Centre opened in 2006. The provision operates from purpose-built premises to the rear of St Erth Primary School in the rural village of St Erth, near Penzance, in Cornwall. It is open term time only from 9am until 12pm on Monday and Friday, and 9am until 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The provision is in receipt of funding for two, three and four-year-olds. There are three members of staff. The manager is qualified to degree level and holds Early Years Teacher Status. The deputy is qualified to level 5 and the assistant holds a level 3 qualification.

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