

Sunnyside Nursery School

Whitechurch Lane, Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0PA



Inspection date

25 June 2015

Previous inspection date

27 January 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The quality of teaching is varied, which means that not all staff extend children's knowledge or skills. As a result, not all children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff do not always encourage children to make independent choices from the resources when taking part in activities.
- Staff do not provide a wide range of resources for children to express themselves in art and design.
- Staff do not ensure that all parents receive sufficient information on their child's next stages of learning to support development at home.

It has the following strengths

- Children arrive happy and settle quickly because staff are friendly and welcoming. Parents comment positively on how staff help their children feel emotionally secure.
- Staff promote children's mathematical development well. They help children to work out how to solve problems, learn about shapes and recognise numerals.
- Overall, staff provide appropriate support to prepare children for school. Children have regular opportunities to learn to write their name and staff promote their language skills effectively, extending their vocabulary as they play. Children develop strong relationships and gain some independence during routines.
- Staff attend safeguarding training and have a strong knowledge of how to protect children who may be at risk of harm.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure consistency in the quality of teaching, to provide challenging experiences for children in all areas of their development
- enable children to select resources for their chosen activity to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding.

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

- provide a wider range of media, materials and tools for children to explore and use, to promote their development in expressive arts and design further
- extend the information for parents on children's next stages of learning to strengthen working in partnership and to support children's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff, parents and children present on the day of the inspection and took account of the setting's self-evaluation.
- The inspector checked safeguarding information and the premises.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including policies and procedures, children's development records and planning.

Inspector

Elaine Douglas

Inspection findings

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

Following the last inspection there have been changes to the staff team. Although there have been improvements to the quality of teaching, this is inconsistent. Staff miss opportunities to extend and challenge children's learning and sometimes fail to follow through children's ideas. There is a new system in place to seek suitable information on children's starting points, so that staff can plan more effectively. They work well with parents to find out children's interests. However, they do not inform them of children's next steps to support learning at home. Children take part in activities that cover all areas of development and staff engage them in purposeful discussions. As a result, children make sound progress. Children eagerly use the sand and water trays. Staff provide resources that help children find out what will sink or float. Children enjoy drawing and sticking pieces of tissue onto card. However, the lack of variety in media and materials does not inspire children to create their own designs using a range of techniques.

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

Staff welcome children and their families on arrival, as a result children are happy and settle quickly. Parents comment positively on how well staff support their children's confidence. There is a wide range of labelled resources at low-level indoors. However, at the inspection children did not make independent choices, they used only the resources put out by staff. In addition, there are few choices outdoors. This means that children do not have good opportunities to learn through self-discovery and exploration. Children generally learn to manage their personal hygiene, washing their hands after using the toilet. They drink plenty of water and have daily opportunities for exercise. Children learn to use scissors safely and understand the staff's expectations of their behaviour.

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

Following the last inspection, the provider has improved the security of the premises. She now keeps accurate records of children's attendance and prevents children from entering the kitchen, to help keep them safe. The provider sought some help from the local authority and attended training. This helped her to look at ways of improving outcomes for children. Some staff now recognise when whole group activities do not engage children fully and change their plans. They review the weaknesses accurately and identify how to make improvements. Staff have regular supervision and opportunities to observe each other. This helps them look for better ways of working. Self-evaluation includes sending out parents' questionnaires. They use this appropriately to identify some ways to improve, such as reviewing the organisation of the day to enable children's better engagement in activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142882
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1005681
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Amanda Bakewell
Date of previous inspection	27 January 2015
Telephone number	01963 362454

Sunnyside Nursery School registered in 1998. This privately owned nursery school is situated in Henstridge, Somerset. It is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The setting opens the other weekdays according to demand. The setting receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged three and four years. The owner/manager has Qualified Teacher Status and employs three staff, of whom two hold an early years qualification at level 3 and one is working towards a qualification.

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