

Sunshine Morning Nursery

The Village Hall, Over Stratton, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5LL



Inspection date

9 July 2015

Previous inspection date

28 April 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff plan a broad range of experiences across the educational programme. Staff know their children well as they complete detailed assessments of children's progress and effectively identify their next steps.
- Staff provide a well-organised learning environment with familiar routines. Therefore, children are happy and confident to make decisions about their play, selecting from a varied range of easily accessible resources.
- Children develop good social and independent skills in preparation for their next steps in learning and eventual move to school.
- Staff work closely with parents, local schools, other early years settings and education professionals to maintain a continuous approach to children's care, learning and development.
- Parents comment positively on the valuable opportunities for outdoor learning that staff offer their children and they continue this learning at home. This is particularly evident in the use of the allotment, where, with staff, children confidently explore nature and grow their own fruit and vegetables. This means children develop a very good understanding of the world and healthy lifestyles.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, there are too many distractions during group times, such as children swapping seats and blocking other children's views, because staff do not consistently support children to understand expectations.
- Staff do not always encourage children to solve problems independently, such as how to fix the steering wheel firmly to their models.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- minimise distractions in group activities and help children to understand expectations
- provide more opportunities for children to solve problems independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing inside and outdoors.
- The inspector considered the written views of parents and those spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's learning diaries, self-evaluation, and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Teaching is good. Staff have recently attended further training to support children's understanding of letters and sounds, and use this training well to encourage children to gain these skills. Staff use some group times well overall, to extend children's learning; however, sometimes there are too many distractions and staff do not encourage all children to be aware of expectations, which minimises learning potential. Children create models imaginatively on a large scale, such as making vehicles as they explore their topic on travel. They test materials and decide on the best options. Staff provide good commentary to children's actions and question them well, extending children's communication and language skills. On occasion, staff are too quick to complete tasks and do not encourage children to solve problems for themselves. Children are confident learners for their eventual move to school. For example, when children stumble over writing their name on their creations, they promptly retrieve their name card for support.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment. They know the children well through effective sharing of information with parents from the start. Children form secure relationships, which support their emotional well-being effectively. Children develop good independent skills and understanding of healthy choices. For example, children squeeze their own orange juice, using equipment effectively as they build small-muscle skills. Children are aware of their own needs, pouring their own drinks when they are thirsty. There are good opportunities for children to be outside, active and to explore their local environment, such as visits to Ham Hill for picnics and den building. Children show their understanding of safe practices well, such as adding a seat belt to their model vehicles and putting tripping hazards away. Staff deal promptly with accidents, reassuring children and providing clear explanations to help them understand how to avoid it happening again.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

There is good leadership. Staff provide a safe and secure environment, which is thoroughly risk assessed. Following the last inspection, they ensure plastic bags are stored out of reach of children. There are good systems to employ suitably vetted and qualified staff. Leaders place a strong focus on professional development through staff supervision, peer observations, training and attending regular staff meetings to share good practice. All staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child to safeguard their welfare. The manager regularly reviews and monitors children's progress. Therefore, children make good progress in their learning and development. There are effective self-evaluation arrangements to maintain continuous improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143147
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	825822
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	C Smith and S Gutteridge Partnership
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2009
Telephone number	01460 242250

Sunshine Morning Nursery registered in 1999. It operates from the village hall in Over Stratton, Somerset. The group opens Monday to Thursday from 9.15am until 1.30pm during school term time. It offers extended hours during the summer term in preparation for children moving on to school. The nursery offers free early years education to children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The joint owners are appropriately qualified in Montessori teaching; one holds Early Years Professional Status and the other holds an early years qualification at level 3. They employ two additional staff; one holds an early years qualification at level 3 and the other holds a level 2 qualification. The setting follows the Montessori approach to teaching.

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