

River Children's Centre

Severn Banks Primary School, Naas Lane, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5AU



Inspection date

1 December 2015

Previous inspection date

9 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children develop close attachments to all adults, settle quickly, develop confidence, and feel safe in the setting.
- The manager and staff plan, observe, assess and support children's learning and development effectively. Staff know children well, they identify interests and individual needs and provide a range of stimulating, interesting activities, which are well matched to children's abilities and needs. Children make good progress.
- Staff are good role models. They use praise and encouragement with children, which helps to promote children's good behaviour. Resources are easily accessible. This encourages children of all ages to make choices and develop their independence skills.
- The manager and staff have strong partnerships with parents, carers and other early years providers. Staff regularly discuss children's progress with parents and support learning at home. Parents speak highly about the care and high-quality information staff provide.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions staff miss opportunities to engage the quieter children in some activities, as they tend to focus their attention on the more vocal children.
- Children do not always have enough opportunities to develop their mathematical skills, for example, counting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore additional ways to ensure all children, in particular the quieter children, are fully engaged in activities
- improve opportunities to develop children's mathematical understanding, in particular their number and counting skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children in the play rooms and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers and conducted a joint observation with the one of the managers.
- The inspector checked the evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation, and improvement plan.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and from information included in the parent questionnaires.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including children's records, safeguarding procedures, risk assessments, staff's ongoing supervision records, and the setting's policies and procedures.

Inspector

Hilary Tierney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management have a good understanding of their responsibility to meet the national requirements for children's care and education. Safeguarding is effective. The management implement child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures, which include safer recruitment, consistently. Staff are clear about child protection procedures should they have any concerns. Staff make good use of their qualifications to ensure teaching is to a consistently good standard. The managers use additional funding for disadvantaged children effectively to narrow any gaps in children's outcomes. A clear, detailed evaluation of practice effectively identifies the strengths of the setting and areas that still require improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is consistently good across all areas of the setting. Staff have a secure understanding about how to promote learning. They use detailed observations and assessments so they can effectively plan challenging activities. Staff support children's communication and language skills effectively. Staff promote children's self-esteem and confidence. For example, they skilfully question and listen to children, and give them time to respond. Staff also support younger children's language development. For example, staff repeat words back to the younger children, so they hear the correct pronunciation.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate they feel safe and secure at the setting. Staff respond well to children who are unsure, offering them reassurance in a calm, gentle manner. Children have regular access to the outside play spaces. They enjoy developing their physical skills. For example, children explore the world around them, digging and making mud pies, and riding bikes. Younger children enjoy exploring the outdoor play area. They develop their imagination as they play with dolls and prams. Children are well behaved. They understand the routines, for example, they know when staff ring the chimes they have a few minutes more of play before they go inside. Clear explanations from staff help children learn to share, take turns, and be considerate and respectful to others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress relative to their starting points. All children work comfortably with the range of development typical for their age. Staff prepare children well for their next stages in their learning, which include the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418263
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	832497
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	Barnardo's
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2011
Telephone number	01594842589

River Children's Centre registered in 2010 and Barnardo is commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to run the service. The centre provides early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The River Children's Centre is open all year round the Early Years sessions are term time only. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays sessions for children aged two years are from 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.30am to 3.30pm; on Wednesdays this group operates from 8.45am to 11.45am. The preschool group operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9am to 3pm, and on Tuesdays from 8.45am to 11.45am, during term times. There are 12 staff, of whom 11 hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2 and 3. This includes two qualified teachers and one person who has achieved Early Years Professional Status.

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