

Four Woods Nursery

415 Crownhill Road, West Park, Plymouth, PL5 2LN



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

19 April 2016

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Staff provide good support to children's personal, social and emotional development and their communication and language development. They provide interesting activities and engage well with children, to promote learning.
- Effective observation, assessment and planning procedures enable staff to set clear targets for children. The manager and staff identify areas of learning where children need further support. They take positive action to address these, to close gaps in learning and promote children's continuous progress.
- Positive partnerships with parents, support agencies and schools enables staff to meet the individual needs of children effectively. Staff know the children well and they provide care and education to suit children's specific requirements.
- The manager and staff have a robust self-evaluation procedure, which provides an accurate overview of their effectiveness. They share knowledge and skills from training to promote further development and improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend the creative play opportunities for younger children, to enable them to use materials independently and express their own creativity.
- Although staff have made some improvement in the provision of outdoor resources, there has been a delay in implementing their most significant development plans, to extend learning opportunities for children who learn better outside.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities for younger children to use creative play materials freely, to promote and develop their unique creative skills
- implement the action plans to improve and develop the outdoor play areas, to increase and enhance outdoor learning opportunities for children; particularly for those who learn better outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with managers, staff and parents.
- The inspector observed staff and children in their indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled children's development records and viewed other documentation, including accident records and risk assessment procedures.
- The inspector checked safety of the premises and the systems that monitor staff suitability.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The staff team is working well together to embed good practice. Robust vetting and recruitment procedures check that suitable persons work with children. Staff monitoring is effective in identifying staff skills and any training needs. Courses that staff attend have a positive impact on teaching and promote inclusive practice. Staff are conscientious about their policies and procedures, which promote and protect children's welfare. For example, they supervise children well and are prompt to record accidents. Rigorous risk assessments and safety checks are in place, to provide a safe and secure environment. Safeguarding is effective. Permanent and bank staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of the child protection procedures; this help them to safeguard children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide an effective programme of activities to interest children and promote development. For example, children enjoy a topic about people who help us, which includes an exciting visit from the fire service. Children have fun, for example, as they learn letters and sounds, practise writing and do puzzles. Staff involve parents well in children's learning. For example, they provide resources and suggest activities which children like to do at home with their families. The 'To and Fro' book enables parents to add to their children's achievement record. Staff use funding well to meet the individual needs of children. For instance, they purchase wider ranges of writing tools and soft-play equipment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy being in the nursery and make warm friendships. They form good attachments to staff, which shows that they develop positive relationships. The daily routines are important to children because they provide structure, which children understand and respond well to. For example, toddlers stop and listen to staff when they hear the jingling bells. They sing songs with enthusiasm as they tidy and wait for their healthy snack. Staff skilfully model positive language and behaviour, to promote and remind children about good manners. Children understand the rules, which staff explain to parents to reinforce a consistent approach. For instance, children talk about 'kind hands and kind words'.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They feel secure and show increasing levels of confidence. Older children show care and understanding as they develop respect for others. Children concentrate well and are keen to join in with activities. They are prepared well for their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481776
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	992159
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	50
Name of provider	4Children
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01752 366795

Four Woods Nursery has been in operation since 2005 and re-registered in 2014 under the company ownership of 4Children. It operates from ground-floor rooms within a children's centre in the West Park area of Plymouth. The nursery is open from 9am to 3.30pm, during term time only. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education places for children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 staff who work directly with the children, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. The manager holds Early Years Professional Status and the deputy manager is qualified at degree level.

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