

Ladybirds Playgroup

Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School, Lydeard St Lawrence, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3SF



Inspection date

5 October 2016

Previous inspection date

11 November 2013

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The extremely caring and attentive staff form exceptionally close bonds with the children. Children benefit enormously from superb support for their social and emotional development. They feel extremely safe and confident to learn and explore.
- Management and staff are reflective and evaluate their practice continually. They actively seek the views of children and parents to improve outcomes for children. There are effective systems in place to monitor staff performance. Recommendations from previous reports have been addressed successfully.
- Staff have a good understanding of child development and support children's learning effectively during activities and routines. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Management and staff make good use of the many opportunities to collaborate with the local primary schools. Children benefit from effective partnership working, which helps them to become ready for moving on to future learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff help children to develop their early reading skills at group times, they sometimes miss opportunities to extend this learning during play.
- Staff do not consult parents about children's developmental levels when they start to attend, to help them to establish children's starting points and inform planning as soon as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to practise their early reading skills to reinforce their learning
- consult parents further about children's developmental levels when they start to attend, to build on what they know and can do more effectively from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff engaged in activities with the children indoors and outside.
- The inspector looked at a range of policies and children's records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the chairperson of the committee and the manager.
- The inspector talked to staff, parents and children and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff receive child protection training and are vigilant about children's health and safety. They keep their knowledge up to date, for example, by completing training, which helps them to identify children who may be at risk of harm from extreme behaviours and views. The manager monitors children's learning well, and provides prompt support for children who need extra help. She adapts activities appropriately and works effectively with outside agencies, helping all children to reach their full potential. Partnerships with parents are good. The manager keeps parents well informed about how their children are progressing. Staff receive good support for their professional development. For example, they recently attended specialist training, which has had an extremely positive impact on their approach to children's behaviour.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff get to know the children and their individual interests well. They use their observations and assessments of children at play effectively to help children to achieve the next steps in their learning. Staff thoughtfully plan activities which interest and engage children at different stages of their development. Adult-led groups support children's learning well across the curriculum. For example, children enjoy sensory experiences, such as making bread, developing their curiosity and understanding of how materials change when they are mixed together. They count out ingredients and compare shapes and sizes, developing their mathematical skills and vocabulary while having fun.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children benefit enormously from a strong sense of belonging, and community. They are very happy and secure in the routines of the day. Staff are excellent role models to the children, and show great care and concern for their well-being. Children behave exceptionally well, sharing and taking turns amicably during play. Staff are highly skilled in helping children to recognise their feelings and understand the impact their behaviour has on others. They listen very carefully to what children have to say, responding extremely positively and respecting their views. The learning environment is highly stimulating and rich with exciting opportunities to explore and be creative. Children benefit from daily access to inviting outdoor spaces, such as 'the secret garden', where they learn about the natural world and develop their excellent physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their speech and language development. They speak confidently to adults and to their friends, making their views known and describing their experiences with enthusiasm. Children quickly become independent and able to manage their own self-care in good preparation for moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143053
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1061475
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 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	Ladybirds Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522328
Date of previous inspection	11 November 2013
Telephone number	01984 667342

Ladybirds Playgroup is a committee-run pre-school which registered in 2009. It operates from a self-contained unit in the grounds of the village primary school in Lydeard St Lawrence, Somerset. The playgroup opens four days a week during school term time. It is open from 8.45am to 2.45pm on Mondays to Thursdays. The playgroup is in receipt of funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are three members of staff who have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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