

Horizon Childcare

Discovery House, Pynes Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX2 5AZ



Inspection date

16 March 2017

Previous inspection date

9 June 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 are very caring towards children. They are responsive to babies' needs, for example, quickly recognising when they need a sleep or a cuddle. This helps children to feel settled and secure.
- The manager and her senior staff team have worked very effectively since their appointments to make necessary improvements. For example, positive changes have been made to improve the safety and quality of the learning environment.
- Parents speak highly about the improvements they have seen to the nursery. They are particularly pleased about the good progress their children are making in their learning and development.
- Children enjoy their time at Horizon Childcare. They have fun playing alongside each other in the well-resourced play areas.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are yet to build successful relationships with other settings to enable them to share what they know about those children who attend them. Partnerships with local schools are also in the early stage of development meaning staff's focus on school readiness is not thorough.
- The quality of teaching is not consistently of a very high standard. Action plans to develop teaching practice are in the early stages and are only just beginning to make a positive difference to children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve links with other settings and local schools so that information about children's learning and development is shared and children are prepared as well as possible for their move onto school
- implement effective plans to improve the quality of teaching to bring it to a consistently very high standard.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to parents, staff and children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of staff's teaching practice with the manager.
- The inspector sampled documentation such as DBS records, the safeguarding and complaints policies and staff files.
- The inspector observed children at play both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector met with the manager and the provider to discuss how the setting is managed.

Inspector

Linda Dawe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider has been proactive in taking action since the last inspection to make significant improvements to the learning environment and teaching practice. A new manager and senior staff team have been appointed and together they have identified the key areas for improvement. New systems are in place to monitor teaching and to identify staff training needs. Policies and procedures have been re-written and shared with staff to make sure they are fully understood and implemented. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are clear about the signs that would raise their concerns about a child's welfare. The provider has taken effective steps to improve safety at the nursery. For example, a new entry system has been installed to help keep children safe and make sure that unauthorised persons cannot gain access to children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and her staff team have effective systems in place to observe, assess and monitor children's progress. They use their knowledge of each child and their interests to plan purposeful activities that suit their developmental needs well. Staff successfully teach children how to play together and develop their imaginations. For example, children have great fun being astronauts in the spaceship role play area that staff have made for them. A strong emphasis is put on developing children's communication and language. For example, staff read stories to children from a good selection of high quality books, teaching children new vocabulary. Careful thought is given to how the room is laid out to provide children with a good choice of activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children particularly enjoy being in the outdoor area, for example, practising their early writing skills as they paint on the fences with brushes and water. Staff provide children with a good range of equipment, such as magnets, wooden blocks and different size reflective discs for children to develop their knowledge of shape and size and other mathematical concepts.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are on hand to help children settle quickly when they arrive. Children build good relationships with key staff, which helps them to feel safe and secure. Staff have a good knowledge of children's home routines, which helps them to meet their individual needs. For example, they know how and when children like to sleep. Children behave well and are taught to be polite and well mannered. The manager is a good role model for both staff and children. For example, she steps in to show staff how to use distraction to manage toddler temper tantrums effectively.

Outcomes for children are good

Children demonstrate a good attitude to learning. They are eager to explore and take part in activities. Children are confident in recognising their own names, which helps prepare them for school. Younger children and babies explore the world around them and learn about different textures as they play with sand and water, for example.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497757
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1083307
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	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	Horizon Care (South West) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP907548
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2016
Telephone number	01392 426340

Horizon Childcare registered in 2016. It is situated in Pynes Hill Business Park in Exeter. The setting is open from 7am to 6pm, seven days a week, all year. Seven staff are employed. The manager has a BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies and Early Years Teacher Status. In addition, two members of staff have qualifications at level 3 and two members of staff have qualifications at level 2. The setting is registered to receive funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged three and four.

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