

The Ark Child Okeford

St. Nicholas C of E Primary School, Station Road, Child Okeford,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8EL



Inspection date	26 June 2019
Previous inspection date	11 August 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

- The manager strives for improvement and alongside staff identifies key areas to develop. For example, they have introduced many more natural resources and 'loose parts' outside, which has encouraged children's imagination and creativity successfully.
- Staff know the children very well and plan a stimulating and challenging educational programme to meet each child's individual learning needs. Children are well motivated and make good progress.
- Staff support children's personal, social and emotional development well. They help children to understand the boundaries and expectations. Children's behaviour is very good.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff monitor children's progress effectively and share this information with parents. They develop an effective two-way flow of information with parents to ensure there is a consistent approach to children's care and learning.
- At times, the space in the baby room becomes cluttered with toys and resources. Staff do not organise all activities effectively to make the most of learning experiences for babies. For example, babies quickly lose interest in an activity with spaghetti and pasta shapes as the pasta spills out onto the floor and the activity lacks purpose.
- Occasionally, staff do not use whole-group activities to capture children's interests as well as possible or engage all children's full participation.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of the inside space and activities for the babies to encourage them to explore the environment and engage their interests more consistently
- develop whole-group activities for older children, to support their needs even further and encourage their participation more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, planning and policies.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into account.

Inspector

Michelle Heimsoth

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. They recognise the signs and symptoms which may indicate a child is at risk of harm, including wider safeguarding concerns. They know the reporting procedure to follow. The manager holds regular meetings with staff to discuss their practice and assesses the quality of teaching well, by working alongside them and making observations. The manager supports staff well to develop their professional knowledge. For example, staff use new skills to help children express their feelings and regulate their behaviour successfully for themselves. This has a positive impact on children's behaviour and helps them to understanding how their actions can affect others.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's understanding of nature well. For example, children plant and grow vegetables, which they then harvest and eat for their lunch. Toddlers and older children use magnifying glasses, as they enthusiastically look for insects and bugs in the garden. Outdoors, older children excitedly select resources and work very well together to build a house. Staff support children well to solve problems and develop their imagination by asking thought-provoking questions as they try out their ideas, such as mixing water with the sand to make 'cement'. Babies excitedly explore paint and enthusiastically experiment with making marks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thoroughly enjoy being active. Older children have a good understanding of how their bodies work. For example, after a morning 'wake and shake' session staff encourage children to think about why they are out of breath. Children recognise that they feel hot and are thirsty and know why they feel this way. They enjoy joining the reception class children from the school as they develop good physical skills and coordination practising for their sports day. Children feel safe and emotionally secure. For example, babies and toddlers build strong bonds with staff, who are kind and nurturing. Older children confidently communicate with staff, who encourage them to be independent.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain a wide range of skills, which prepare them well for their next stage of learning and school. Older children concentrate and listen well to a story, identifying rhyming words correctly. They count from one to 20 and write words independently. Younger children play well together and happily share resources, for example, taking it in turns to fill up containers with water from the water butt.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141096
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10062630
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	140
Name of registered person	The Ark Child Okeford
Registered person unique reference number	RP902280
Date of previous inspection	11 August 2015
Telephone number	01258 861007

The Ark Child Okeford registered in 1992 and re-registered when they moved to the grounds of St Nicholas Primary School in Child Okeford in 2007. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 21 members of staff. The manager holds an early years qualification at level 4 and most of the other staff are qualified at level 3. The staff team is supported by an administrator, a cook, and a cleaner.

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