

Inspection of Dunkeswell Pre-school CIO

Unit 6, Culme Way, Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 4JP

Inspection date:

26 September 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and secure and have warm, nurturing relationships with their key person. Staff know children well and plan the curriculum based on their next steps in learning alongside their specific interests. Staff carefully assess children to identify if they may need additional support. They work with families and external agencies to ensure that children reach their full potential. Children make good progress in their learning and development, although the manager has an insecure knowledge of the legal requirements regarding the validation of first-aid certificates.

Children demonstrate good levels of engagement and enjoyment from the range of activities on offer. Staff plan specific activities to support particular children in order to help them make progress. For example, physical development is planned for. Children benefit from trips to the park and accessing resources at the setting to further develop their confidence and skills. Staff are attentive and support children in developing their communication and language skills. For example, staff model language, sing songs and share stories with children.

Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. Children are well behaved and staff consistently praise them. They are independent. For example, younger children are responsible for their own personal belongings. Staff prepare older children for starting school, such as learning about letters and the sounds they represent and numbers. Children develop their concentration skills by joining in with small-group sessions. Children demonstrate an interest in mark making and staff nurture this by providing various media for children to practise these skills.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Parents are positive about the setting and the partnerships established with them. They describe their children as being happy to attend and say that they make good progress in their learning. Communication with parents is good. Parents are regularly informed of their child's learning via a newsletter, emails and an online platform.
- The setting uses assessment well to identify children's next steps in learning. Assessments are undertaken when a child starts at the setting and this informs their targets. All staff are aware of children's next steps and how they can facilitate their learning. Staff review children's progress frequently in order to ensure they continue to make progress.
- The setting has good links with the community. The setting is developing their own allotment and the children visit it frequently. Healthy eating is supported by growing vegetables and talking about the importance of eating healthy foods. The vegetables grown are then sold to the community at the setting's stall.

- The promotion of respect for cultural diversity, similarities and differences is supported through displays and activities. For example, a large family tree display features children and family members who are special to them. Parents are invited into the setting to share learning about their profession and culture. Children learn about the concept of democracy and have engaged in a voting activity in the community hall.
- Staff are proactive in carrying out daily risk assessments in the setting. However, the manager and staff do not hold valid paediatric first-aid certificates, which may compromise children's safety, although they do demonstrate a good understanding of the procedures to take in an emergency to ensure children's well-being.
- Opportunities to practise counting are present in the curriculum. Staff consistently support children. They model counting and match a quantity to a number. Children enjoy counting in everyday activities. Staff teach this through group teaching, resources and activities.
- The manager has identified some areas of training for staff to keep their professional knowledge up to date. However, these are not always consistent to support children's learning and development even more.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibility in recognising and reporting any concerns about a child's welfare. Safeguarding is given a high priority and staff are vigilant to any concerns through regular discussions and reading publications. Staff carry out daily risk assessments to ensure children are safe in the setting and when going on visits. Children are able to articulate the rules to help keep them safe when using the climbing equipment, for example.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that at least one member of staff has a valid paediatric first-aid certificate.	22/10/2022

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

- provide further opportunities for staff to keep their professional knowledge up to date to benefit children's development even more.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2591990
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10215922
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Dunkeswell Pre-school CIO
Registered person unique reference number	2591989
Telephone number	01404 891622
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Dunkeswell Pre-school CIO registered in 2020. It is a charity run setting, based in Dunkeswell, Devon. It operates from a purpose-built site within a residential area. It is open from Monday to Friday, between 8am and 3pm, term time only. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two and three years. It employs five members of staff. The manager and deputy manager hold qualifications at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Leanne Galloway

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views about the setting.
- A range of documentation was reviewed, including qualification certificates.
- The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector and the manager observed children during activities and completed a follow-up discussion about children's learning and development.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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