

Mama Bear's Day Nursery

30 Crownhill Fort Road, Plymouth, PL6 5BX



Inspection date	27 October 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team is highly reflective. It involves staff, children and parents in its meticulous self-evaluation to make excellent improvements. For example, staff organise meetings of a 'children's council' to gain their views about favourite activities and what they enjoy learning, and incorporate this very successfully into planning.
- Staff are very caring and attentive, and support children's emotional development exceptionally well. Babies form very strong attachments with staff to explore sensory activities confidently, for example. They gain excellent dexterity and curiosity.
- Staff work in excellent partnership with parents to involve them very effectively in children's learning. For example, staff collaborate successfully with parents to set meaningful targets for children's development. They provide valuable information and complementary resources to support and strengthen children's learning at home. Children make excellent progress from their starting points.
- There is an extremely sharp focus on planning activities and creating highly exciting learning experiences, so children achieve and excel in their development. Staff assess children's levels of development very precisely to plan activities and provide excellent support to children's learning and development.
- The environment is highly inspirational, with excellent activities that ignite children's interest and exploration. For example, they are deeply fascinated to experiment using vegetables to dye fabric and discover the colours they make to create pictures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide even more encouragement for older children to solve problems and extend their thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including the nursery's policies and children's records.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents, and took account of their views.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The management team implements very effective policies and procedures, including those for child protection, to ensure staff continue to fully understand how to keep children safe from harm. Staff are extremely thorough in their risk assessments and supervise children very effectively to minimise potential hazards. The manager recruits and supports staff very effectively to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. For example, staff attend training to provide highly innovative opportunities for younger children to extend their sensory play very well. The manager monitors children's learning meticulously to notice when individual and groups of children need extra support, and identify any gaps in the curriculum. She works with outside agencies and uses funding highly effectively to help all children to flourish and reach their full potential.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff interact with children extremely positively to fully support their deep engagement and involvement in activities. For example, toddlers interact with puppets enthusiastically as staff expertly encourage them to develop a clear understanding of the sequence of the story in familiar books. Staff provide superb opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills throughout the nursery. For example, children are extremely eager to carefully record the types of insects they find on a bug hunt. They develop excellent early writing skills and a clear understanding of writing for a purpose. Overall, staff provide excellent encouragement for children to explore, investigate and solve problems. However, very occasionally, they miss opportunities to encourage older children to speculate and try things out for themselves to extend their thinking skills even further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff very skilfully involve children in setting the rules for behaving well towards others. Children share and cooperate extremely well. Children benefit from very inspiring activities to support their physical skills, indoors and outdoors. They organise their own nutritious snacks and clear away, developing very high independence, for example. Children follow excellent hygiene routines and confidently explain the need to wash their hands after handling insects. Staff provide very meaningful opportunities for children to learn about other communities beyond their own. For example, children share interesting information about the lives of their family members who live in other parts of the world.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children gain excellent skills for their future learning and move on to school with very high levels of self-assurance. They are extremely confident communicators. Babies converse through smiles and gestures, and rapidly learn new words. Older children use detailed vocabulary to explain why they enjoy activities, and express their opinions very fluently. Children are extremely interested and motivated learners, and do extremely well in their mathematical development. Younger children very skilfully count and compare shapes and sizes. Older children estimate and adeptly make accurate calculations.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493466
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1025923
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Mama Bear's Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901325
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01752 782 552

Mama Bear's Day Nursery registered in 2015. The nursery operates from a converted building in Plymouth, Devon. It is open from 7.30am to 6pm each weekday throughout the year. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It employs 10 members of staff, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager has early years professional status.

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