

Mama Bear's Day Nursery

The Old School, Houndstone Close, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3RL



Inspection date	19 January 2017
Previous inspection date	15 March 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 quality of teaching is excellent. Staff make the very most of the environment indoors and outdoors. They offer a superb range of resources, which capture children's curiosity at the highest level.
- Staff give exceptionally high priority to children's well-being. Settling-in arrangements are flexible and individual to children's and parents' needs. Children are extremely confident, self-assured and emotionally secure.
- Managers rigorously monitor any gaps in achievement in different groups of children and areas of learning. They swiftly use this information to help them make changes to the educational programmes. All children make excellent progress.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. The successful involvement of parents in their children's learning and care helps to support continuity and makes sure that children's needs are quickly identified and met exceedingly well.
- The manager and her team have built exemplary relationships with other professionals, agencies and local schools. There are extremely well-coordinated strategies that help to support the excellent progress of children.
- The management team has an exceptional range of meticulous monitoring systems to help ensure excellence in all areas. Self-evaluation is used astutely to maintain continuous improvement, which staff contribute to and support.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop even further the opportunities for children to think about and respond to questions to extend their communication and language skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, children, the manager and company representatives at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation including accident forms, policies, qualification certificates and children's learning records.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. All staff and the management team have high levels of awareness of the possible signs that indicate a child might be at risk. The management team provides an extensive range of training and coaching opportunities for all staff, including confidential one-to-one meetings where they can discuss their training needs and any concerns. The management team is keen to continue to enhance staff's practice even further and is constantly developing new plans in its monthly meetings. For example, staff have introduced books and support to help children and parents when they move rooms. There are also plans to further develop children's conversational skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are extremely knowledgeable about children's individual needs and next steps in learning. Children are stimulated, motivated and show high levels of involvement. For example, babies keenly explore the marks their fingers make in sand and quickly learn how to operate simple technology toys. Staff place a high priority on children actively learning from what they set out. Activities have a clear learning intention. For example, young children use a play dough activity to create models of fruits and caterpillars from a favourite story, using their developing physical skills to mould, move and shape the dough. Staff use their expert knowledge to provide enjoyable and highly challenging mathematical and literacy activities for children of all ages. For example, older children develop their writing and mathematics skills in the role-play shop.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The highly stimulating outdoor environment gives ample opportunities for children to be active. Children constantly challenge their physical skills and learn to take risk safely. For example, they have jumping competitions and try to guess who can lift logs of different sizes and weights. Children's behaviour is exemplary and they learn to cooperate and work together from an early age. Staff cleverly use resources such as puppets to help children learn how to recognise and manage their feelings. All children are extremely confident to express how they feel and show care and compassion for others. They keenly work well together at tidy-up time and during activities, working in small groups and pairs.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children develop their love of books and have lots of opportunities to talk about the marks they make using a variety of resources. Children quickly learn to identify numbers and count, which they use in their play. They recognise letters and the sounds they make, which helps them to write their own name. All children, including those who have special educational needs, make excellent progress, which helps to prepare them for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY453341
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1063023
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 - 5
Total number of places	68
Number of children on roll	134
Name of registered person	Mama Bear's Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901325
Date of previous inspection	15 March 2013
Telephone number	01935 433347

Mama Bear's Day Nursery registered in 2012. It is owned by a family run group covering the south west of England. The nursery is located in the town of Yeovil, Somerset and is open each weekday from 6.30am to 7pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are 30 members of staff. The manager has early years professional status, and 24 members of staff are qualified at level 3 or above.

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