

Marine Academy Nursery

Marine Academy Plymouth, Trevithick Road, PLYMOUTH, PL5 2AF



Inspection date

11 March 2015

Previous inspection date

18 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff are caring and thoughtful. Consequently, older children show a genuine kindness towards each other.
- Staff know children well and respond promptly to their individual needs. As a result, babies are happy, content and feel secure.
- Staff promote independence well, which effectively promotes children's personal, social and emotional development.
- Staff provide activities that engage children's interest and promote their development. They take note of children's new achievements to help plan for their next steps in learning.
- The provider uses effective staff supervision procedures that support staff to develop their teaching skills further and promote children's learning and development. For example, following training, staff introduced 'what is it sheets?' to promote children's thinking. This helps them to encourage children to share objects at group time, ask questions, share ideas and make suggestions.
- Good self-evaluation and staff training help the nursery to make continuous improvements that benefit children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the areas that staff use for small group work are too small for the number of children, and therefore, not ideal to promote children's learning.
- For those children who prefer to learn outdoors, there are fewer opportunities for them to use numbers in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve small group times by organising a suitable learning environment so children can listen and concentrate in comfort
- extend children's use of numbers outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing indoors and outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint inspection with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of paperwork, including children's and staff records, policies, procedures, accident records and action plans.
- The inspector sought the views of parents through discussion and written comments.

Inspector

Sara Frost

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide a good range of activities to promote children's learning and development in all areas, especially their communication and language. They ask questions and encourage children to talk and share their ideas during play. Staff provide a good balance of free-play and adult-led activities. However, on occasions, some specific small group times are not ideal to promote children's concentration and listening skills. Indoors, children have good opportunities to become familiar with numbers and staff effectively introduce mathematical concepts in their play. However, for those children who learn better outdoors, there is limited opportunity for them to recognise and use numbers. Observation, assessment and planning procedures provide a clear record of children's good progress.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children enter the nursery with ease. An effective key person system promotes good continuity of care. This means that, as children move on through the nursery, they feel secure because of the familiar staff. Babies take a keen interest in their surroundings and like to investigate play materials. They enjoy rolling balls back and forth with staff, exploring with sand, dough and shells. Staff consistently talk and sing with the younger ones as they play. These activities promote good physical development, language and confidence. Older children and staff eat lunch in the primary school dining hall and staff talk to them about school. This helps them become familiar with the environment and routines, and prepares children well for the next stage in their learning, ready for their move on to school. Babies and children benefit from outdoor activities on a daily basis, where they explore the natural environment.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures to help safeguard children's welfare. They monitor and support children's safety well, for example, they frequently check sleeping babies. Staff attend relevant training and take positive steps to improve practice, which results in children feeling more valued and listened to at circle time. The provider has strengthened their self-evaluation and staff supervision to improve outcomes for children. In response to need, they provide places for babies and recognise the need to improve the babies' outdoor play area. The good partnerships with parents benefit children's learning and development at home and at the nursery. Parents provide positive written and verbal feedback. The effective monitoring of staff skills and children's learning allows the provider to track children's progress and identify gaps in their learning and the educational programmes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422062
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	845286
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Marine Academy Plymouth
Date of previous inspection	18 July 2011
Telephone number	01752 214005

Marine Academy Nursery registered in 2011. It operates from a converted building situated within the grounds of the Marine Academy, Plymouth. Children have access to enclosed outdoor play areas. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides funded early education places for two- three- and four-year olds. The nursery employs 10 members of staff. Of these, two have Early Years Professional Status, two hold an early years qualification at level 4 and six at level 3.

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