

Curious Kittens Day Nursery (Kings Road)

City College Plymouth, Kings Road, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon PL1 5QG



Inspection date	17 January 2019
Previous inspection date	31 May 2016

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children feel safe, secure and develop incredible levels of self-esteem and confidence during their interactions. They have exceptionally warm and positive relationships with staff who consistently ensure that children's well-being is the highest priority.
- Parents speak highly of this unique setting and the flexibility, support and guidance they receive from staff. Parents feel their children are well cared for and supported in their learning while they work or access further opportunities at college.
- Experienced staff work effectively with parents and other professionals to meet children's individual needs, supporting their development needs well.
- The quality of teaching is strong. Staff have high expectations and use all opportunities effectively to develop children's learning.
- Children develop their language and communication skills well and are confident to ask questions, recount an experience or offer their views. With younger children, staff copy, model and extend language naturally within all interactions.
- Children benefit from well trained staff who know the children well. Staff skilfully interact and engage with the children during their play to move their learning forward. Children are encouraged to think and solve problems independently.
- Younger children benefit from shared time in the exciting outside spaces. They play alongside the older children who support and model play for them. For example in the mud kitchen, older children supported the younger children to creatively make different flavoured cakes and ice cream, developing vocabulary and opportunities for counting.
- Children make good progress from their starting points. However, further analysis of information about different groups of children would build on this to enable children to make better than expected progress.
- Children who prefer to learn outside would benefit from greater opportunities to access print and number in the environment to support their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's access to print and number to further support learning opportunities, particularly for those children who prefer to learn outdoors
- build on the information staff know about the different groups of children to boost their learning so that children make better than expected progress from their starting point.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing during organised activities and those chosen by themselves.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and her deputy.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager to discuss how the setting is organised and how they recruit new staff.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including evidence relating to staff vetting checks, policies and children's development records.

Inspector

Dilys Vincent

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and her team ensure all staff are confident in recognising and taking appropriate action if they have a concern about a child's welfare. There are robust systems in place for staff recruitment and the manager ensures staff are well supported in their induction and daily practice. They use supervision and appraisal systems to support the development of all staff. Regular staff meetings focus on areas, such as safeguarding. There is a drive from management, and a strong shared commitment from all staff, to continually improve and ensure children access the best experiences. Recent development of outside spaces enables children opportunities to play in the fresh air. All staff are experienced and continue to build on their knowledge through training and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children benefit from staff who skilfully model and use questioning to encourage children to make their own choices and share their thoughts and ideas. A high ratio of staff to children means there are opportunities for individual and small group support. Children with additional needs are exceptionally well supported by the most experienced staff who ensure activities are adapted to their needs. Children delight in sharing their learning, for example, explaining the colours of the rainbow and which colours to mix to make the colours. Mathematical language is part of a range of play experiences, staff encourage children to think about number, shape and volume when in the outside kitchen making pretend cakes. The youngest children are supported in all aspects of developing new skills and moments of success are celebrated and shared with parents. Children develop their understanding of the world and benefit from play with peers from a diverse range of different cultures and ethnic groups.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is exceptional. They are skilled at negotiating and sorting out small differences independently. For example, younger children listen to other children's suggestions and respond with thoughtful ideas about where to sit and who will have the first try at an activity. Children learn about healthy snacks. They explore exciting and new foods, considering texture, taste and smell. Staff skilfully use all opportunities to discuss health and how to stay safe. Staff know the children's interests very well. For instance, children with additional needs become fully engrossed in exploring a range of sensory play activities and show fascination in hearing the sounds. Younger children are extremely confident and motivated to try new skills, such as crawling, walking and climbing. Children's care routines are seen as unique opportunities for quality interaction and the development of language.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. Children are well prepared with the skills and knowledge they require for their future learning in school. They are confident in expressing their views and ideas. Children use their imaginations well and are encouraged to investigate with mixing paints to make the colours of the rainbow. They are confident to share their learning with visitors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117108
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	10072305
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 - 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	71
Name of registered person	City College Plymouth
Registered person unique reference number	RP517721
Date of previous inspection	31 May 2016
Telephone number	01752 305345 01752 305872

Curious Kittens Day Nursery (Kings Road) registered at the present site in Devonport, Plymouth, in 1996. The nursery is open on weekdays between 8.15am and 5.15pm for 48 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. A staff team of 17 works with the children, all of whom hold childcare qualifications to level 3 or above. There is one member of staff who holds early years professional status.

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