

# Little Acorns Childcare Ltd

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY136994
<b>Inspection date</b>	03/11/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Denise Sixsmith
<b>Setting address</b>	34 Sheep Hill Lane, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 7JH
<b>Telephone number</b>	01772 696288
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

## Description of the setting

Little Acorns Childcare Ltd is a privately owned children's day nursery's which became registered in April 2002 to the current owners. It operates from purpose built premises in Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. The premises consists of a detached two storey building situated in its own grounds. The nursery is accessed via the ground floor. Stairs are used to access the first floor where pre-school children are accommodated. Children have access to a secure outdoor area. The nursery is open five days a week, all year round, from 07.45 until 17.45. A maximum of 55 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 92 children attending who are within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The registered provider employs 15 staff, of whom 14 hold an appropriate early years qualification and one is working towards a qualification. The setting is a member of the National Day nurseries Association and receives support from the local authority.

The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory part of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Staff work well together to ensure that the individual needs of the children are known and met. Information is shared with parents prior to children starting to ensure that a link between home and the nursery is established ensuring children's welfare needs are met. Staff ensure that the environment is inviting and provides appropriate challenges for children to learn and develop through play during the Early Years Foundation Stage. Clear, appropriate policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents. The majority of the risk assessments and hygiene procedures are effective. The provider and staff have a commitment to ongoing improvement and have undertaken improvements since the last inspection that benefit the health and development of children. The process of undertaking formal self assessment has been initiated and is ongoing to assist the management team to better identify the settings strengths and the areas for improvement.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop staffs understanding of the assement and planning systems to better identify and enhance children's learning styles, developmental progress and next steps in learning towards the early learning goals
- review the fire drill evacuation system to ensure that all types of emergency alarm signals are acted upon promptly by staff and ensure that all equipment is appropriate and in working order
- review the system in place for sleeping children to ensure that they have their own bed linen

- ensure that written records and documentation maintain confidentiality and that information on notices is accurate and up to date.

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The provider is supportive towards the staff team and to the improvement of the environment for the children. This includes support to staff in their daily practice and their ongoing training and development from a director. The staff recruitment and retention systems are secure, which ensures the children are safeguarded at all times. The staff have implemented changes in the nursery following the previous inspection, for example, introducing more sensory experiences for the younger children and enhanced provision in the role play areas for the older children. The outdoor area has been developed to provide a pleasant play and planting area for the children. These improvements have a positive effect on the environment offered to children. Management have initiated a formal self assessment system which is still in its early days of development but has started to identify most of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision.

The setting has a range of policies, procedures and practices in place to protect the children. All records required for the safe and efficient management of the nursery are in place and completed consistently by staff. The nursery has a nominated health and safety coordinator in place and clear risk assessments. Fire drills are carried out regularly, however, the planned manual system does not include evacuation by staff and children in the event of the triggering of the smoke alarms. As a result this evacuation is less timely and effective. Staff follow clear procedures to promote children's good health and well-being. For example, accident and medication records are in place and shared with parents as required. Management ensure that staff maintain a first aid certificate and that advanced training is provided for management staff to ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of accidents to children and staff. Key workers undertake personal care for their named children to ensure continuity of care for the very young. Staff are vigilant in ensuring surfaces are cleaned and nappy changing practice ensures that risk of cross-contamination is reduced. However, whilst cot and bed base sheets are washed between each use this is not the case with the duvets. Staff have a sound understanding of safeguarding children which is covered with new staff at induction and through ongoing training opportunities to ensure children's well-being and safety is monitored well. Staff have a sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and provide a range of activity areas, toys and equipment to ensure children make steady progress towards the early learning goals. Children are developing a positive attitude towards learning due to the staff's ready praise and support.

Parents and carers are well informed about the nursery services and welcoming displays are set out in the entrance area. There is a varied range of materials that are shared with, and are available for, parents. These are used to enhance their child's experiences in the setting and for them to be involved and share home experiences with the nursery, for example, through the diary of 'Bradley Bear' and the photos of his adventures. However, the information boards are not always

updated to provide accurate information for parents. Staff collate feedback from parents annually through questionnaires and use this information to improve the service, for example, lighting has been installed in the car park to improve safety. Parents spoken to are very supportive of the nursery and feel that it has a friendly atmosphere where they feel confident that their children are secure and happy.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children confidently initiate their own play and move between areas of activity freely. Systems are in place for the recording of children's development, comprising of both summative and formative records in children's individual folders, however, the records in folders viewed were not always completed. Staff are working with a new system and are observing and noting children's development and significant events well but are not as confident in planning the next steps to ensure each child is developing across all six areas of learning. Confidentiality is not always maintained on displayed plans. Promoting children's communication, language and literacy is a particular strength of this setting. Children's spoken language is very good as they interact confidently with each other and with staff. They sit enthralled at story time and join in to make the loud 'roars' of the billy goats. Children talk readily about the pictures they are drawing and some finish off by writing their names. They readily make in the role play travel agents and have produced their own passports which are displayed on the wall. Children are happy and relaxed in the nursery, older children work well together in the construction area while singing along to the background music. Children of all ages have plenty of opportunity to explore texture, for example, shaving foam, cold spaghetti and jelly as well as sand and play dough. Babies explore through their senses and reach and grab for a variety of dangling objects or lay back and enjoy watching the twirling shiny shapes. Children are beginning to count competently as they confidently hold up fingers to indicate their age. They are developing skills to enhance their future economic wellbeing through the use of the computer and electronic equipment as well as developing their knowledge of how things grow through planned activities with staff. Staff ensure that children are able to develop their physical development through regular outdoor play, and develop their running and manoeuvring skills with the sit and ride toys. Children access the outdoor area in all weathers which means they receive ample opportunities for fresh air and exercise.

Staff ensure that children learn to be safe because they remind them to hold the red banister as they descend the stairs. They arrange for representatives from the fire and police to visit to talk to the children and show them how to stay safe. Children learn to be healthy through engaging in outdoor play and through visits from people showing them how to clean their teeth and how important fruit and vegetables are. Staff ensure that the children are well nourished through homemade meals cooked on the premises and all children have ready access to fresh water. Staff provide positive role models for the children and ensure that positive behaviour is praised and children's achievements valued, consequently, children's behaviour is good. Children who require additional support are well catered for because clear systems are in place to ensure the progress of these children is monitored effectively.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	3
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
---	-----

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
--	-----

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.