



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253063

DfES Number: 544715

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/03/2005  
Inspector Name Lynn Dent

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and After School Club  
Setting Address Brancliffe Lane  
Shireoaks  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S81 8PW

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and Kids Club 1069794

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and Kids Club  
Address Brancliffe Lane  
Shireoaks  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S81 8PW

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and After School Club opened in 1984 and moved to the current premises in 2000. It operates from purpose built premises in Shireoaks in Worksop in Nottinghamshire. A maximum of 26 children may attend the playgroup and after school club at any one time. The playgroup opens each weekday from 9:00 to 11:30 and the after school club opens each weekday from 15:15 to 18:30 during term time only. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 33 children from 2 to under 8 years on roll. Of these, 28 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a Shireoaks and the surrounding areas. The playgroup currently supports a number of children with special needs. The playgroup employs four staff. All of the staff, including the manager holds appropriate early years qualifications.

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and After School Club provides good quality care for children. The management show a commitment to staff training, which ensures good care for children. Effective organisation and imaginative use of time, space and appealing resources creates a stimulating and varied environment for children. Children can move confidently around the premises, freely accessing resources to support their play and learning. Documentation is well-organised and clearly presented. Comprehensive policies and procedures have a positive impact on the care and welfare of the children.

Staff conscientiously carry out regular risk assessments that ensure the children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Children's good health and good hygiene practices are developed during daily routines and snack time is used to further develop children's social interaction and independence. Staff are aware of children's individual needs, which are met by adapting activities to ensure all children can participate. Sign language is incorporated during daily activities by staff and children. Detailed child protection procedures ensure staff know and can implement the local reporting procedures.

Staff work well together to provide consistent care for children. A very good range of planned activities and stimulating play experiences help children to develop necessary and important skills. Children are encouraged to make choices to develop their confidence and independence, consequently they are happy and settled in the setting. Good behaviour is encouraged and supported by a consistent approach from all staff who use positive behaviour management strategies, which are age and developmentally appropriate.

Positive partnerships are fostered with parents who are well informed about the setting and have access to all the policies and procedures. Information about the children's progress is regularly exchanged.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

not applicable

#### **What is being done well?**

- A warm, welcoming and stimulating environment is provided where children can play and receive good levels of supervision. Space and resources are effectively organised, which ensures children can move around confidently, freely choosing their own activities and resources to support their learning and play.
- Children are provided with a very good range of planned play opportunities, activities and stimulating experiences to support and develop their learning and play. Staff interact well with children, using effective techniques to develop their language, social skills and independence skills as a foundation for further learning.
- Staff set good examples and are positive role models for children's behaviour, They work well together, to ensure consistency in approach to managing children's behaviour. They use positive behaviour management to develop children's self-esteem. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged and children are treated with respect and kindness. Therefore children feel secure and settled within the environment.
- Staff have developed good relationships with parents, which allows effective communication ensuring all parties are mutually well informed of the children's development. Parents are kept well informed of their children's development. They receive clear information about the setting and have access to all the policies and procedures.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- documentation, to obtain written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

There are no complaints to report.

**Outcome of the inspection**

Good

**CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**

**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

Little Acorns Shireoaks Playgroup and After School Club provides good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards all the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good and staff have a good awareness of the early learning goals and how these may be achieved. Staff interact very well with the children who are well behaved and confident, praise is used effectively to reward children's achievements and efforts. Resources are well organised to enable children to make independent choices and to encourage their use of both inside and outside.

Staff are very enthusiastic in presenting activities and use good questioning techniques to engage children, although an area of knowledge and understanding of the world and physical development require minor attention. Very good levels of individual support encourage all children, including children with special educational needs, to participate in all activities and children use sign language to facilitate this.

Children's learning is assessed against the stepping stones and early learning goals. Effective observations are made and assessments completed which enable staff to clearly see what children have achieved and what they need to learn next. Good records are kept of children's progress.

The leadership and management of the group is very good. Staff are very committed to ensuring that a good quality service is provided to children and share the aims and objectives of the group.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive a very good range of information about the setting and planning for the curriculum is displayed. Staff are available to talk with daily and children's progress is reported via parent's evenings. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning via a home link sheet which provides them with the opportunity to support children's learning at home.

### What is being done well?

- Relationships between staff and children are very warm and relaxed, staff present activities in an enthusiastic manner which enables children to maximise their learning and enjoyment.
- Personal, social and emotional development is very well promoted, children are very confident and effective communicators. They are developing very good levels of independence as they are encouraged to take responsibilities, such as helping at snack time.

- The staff group work very effectively as a team to promote and sustain children's learning. Assessments are used very well to enable planning for the next steps in children's learning.
- The group has very good relationships with parents who receive good quality information about the group and their children. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning so that teaching provided at the group is supported by home activities.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world in order to provide opportunities for children to talk about their families and people who are familiar to them
- the programme for physical development in order to increase children's awareness of health.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have introduced effective measures to improve assessments which was raised as a key issue in the previous inspection report.

The system of assessment is very effective, when used with observations, to record the children's achievements. This allows staff to monitor what the children have learnt and what they need to learn next.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very good communicators and are motivated to talk about their activities. They are able to work co-operatively in groups and also confidently on their own using resources they have selected. Children are very well behaved and are able to behave responsibly in activities such as sharing food and pouring drinks. Very good relationships are in place with staff and the children are developing a very good awareness of themselves as individuals with the right to express feelings.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children use language very well to communicate between both themselves and adults, describing real and imaginary experiences. They are also developing a very good awareness of what sounds represent letters and are able to sit quietly and listen to other people. Children are beginning to use books for pleasure and have access to a range of words around the room to increase familiarity. Older children are very skilled writers and younger children are making very good progress in mark making.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Younger children are well able to count reliably to 10 and older children are able to extend this activity to 20 and beyond. Counting is used in many situations so that children become familiar with its use. Addition and subtraction are very well promoted and children are very skilled in these activities. Children are very aware of shapes and are effectively using language to compare quantity and size. They are also developing a very good awareness of 2d and 3d representations.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing very good skills in the use of the computer which enhances their learning across a range of skills such as mathematics. They are learning about their environment and making very good progress in recognising the changes that take place in the natural world. However, there are missed opportunities to talk about their place within their family. A knowledge of other cultures is very well promoted and festivals are celebrated to enhance children's awareness of these.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have very good physical skills which they are able to use to negotiate around other people and their environment. They can move forward and backwards and are able to change direction. Children are very adept in the use of small equipment such as scissors and the computer mouse and can use tools such as spoons to effect changes in materials such as chocolate. There are some missed opportunities to promote health awareness in routine activities.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very imaginative and use props such as musical instruments to create scenarios. They have a range of practical skills which they use to very good effect in creating craft work using a wide variety of materials. They have a very good repertoire of songs and listen to a range of music which promotes a variety of responses when linked to stories. Children are able to respond to different experiences by using all their senses and appropriate words to describe these.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**



## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

## **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- increase opportunities in the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world for children to talk about families and people who are familiar to them
- increase opportunities in the programme for physical development for children to learn more about health.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*