

# Little Treasures Pre-School & Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	122410
<b>Inspection date</b>	04/05/2011
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Jeffrey
<b>Setting address</b>	The Old Naafi, Weston Drive, CATERHAM, Surrey, CR3 5XY
<b>Telephone number</b>	01883343678
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises

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## 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 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.

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## Description of the setting

Little Treasures Pre-School & Day Nursery is one of three settings privately owned by Little Gems and Little Treasures Ltd. It opened in 2000 and is located in buildings within 'The Village', formally part of Caterham Barracks, in Surrey. The nursery is easily accessible, has parking facilities on site and is also well serviced by local transport links. Children have access to two dedicated outdoor play areas as well as separate play areas for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. There is also a dedicated soft play area that all children can have access to. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 6pm throughout the year, closing for a week at Christmas. The nursery serves children from a wide geographical area and offers full and part-time places.

The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 98 children under eight years may attend at any one time, 24 of whom may be under two years of age at any one time. There are currently 108 children aged from birth to under five years on roll, who attend a variety of sessions throughout the day. The nursery supports children for whom English is an additional language and children with identified learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education and receives support from the local authority through an early year's advisor. The nursery employs 20 members of staff, including an on-site cook. All members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, or are in the process of gaining these, with the exception of one member of staff who has over 10 years experience at the nursery. The joint owners are supernumerary, and are each available at various times throughout the day. All members of staff hold valid first aid certificates.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

The nursery provides a highly effective learning environment for the children and promotes all aspects of their learning and welfare to a high standard. Children have a wonderful time and thrive in the exemplary care they receive.

Consequently, they make excellent progress in all areas of their development, overall. The nursery successfully provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all children and their families. Children's unique needs are fully supported as a result of the dedication of the staffing team. Partnerships with parents, carers and others involved in the care of the children are excellent and make a significant contribution towards meeting children's individual needs. The nursery's ongoing self-evaluation of the provision incorporates the views of the children, the parents and all staff members and as such, ensures there is a high capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

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

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- reviewing the arrangements for storage of children's flannels in relation to good hygiene practice.

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

Arrangements for safeguarding children are robust and the comprehensive policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, ensuring that all staff are fully aware of their responsibilities in relation to protecting children. To enhance children's safety further, all staff attend regular training in relation to Safeguarding concerns. Rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures are implemented to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Children benefit from playing and resting in a safe and secure environment as a result of highly effective risk assessments. Excellent security measures, including cameras and electronic entry systems, ensure that unauthorised adults cannot enter the premises and children cannot leave them unsupervised.

The nursery has been organised to maximise children's comfort and enjoyment, as a result, children feel at ease and truly welcome. For example photographs of the children and samples of their art work are carefully displayed in the setting, which gives the children a sense of belonging and therefore a sense of security.

Children's learning is significantly enhanced by the excellent use of high quality resources at the nursery, and they benefit from a rich and stimulating learning environment where they can readily access a wide variety of age-appropriate bright and exceptionally well maintained materials.

In addition to excellent use and deployment of the resources, the staff also ensure they fully support and guide the children's learning and development. They enthusiastically dedicate their time to them, encouraging them to actively take part in the planning, which ensures they have opportunities to enjoy activities that particularly interest them. For example, children are actively encouraged to access the low level trays and boxes, with pictorial and written labels to aid identification of the resources within.

The children's key workers have a thorough understanding of each child's background and needs and adapt the care they provide accordingly so that equality and diversity is successfully promoted. The management and staff demonstrate high levels of ambition and drive for continual improvement of the nursery. Staff work extremely well together as a team and have a common sense of purpose to ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve to their full potential. Management are exceptionally dedicated to the nursery and are passionate and enthusiastic about the running of the provision. They set themselves very high standards, which are embedded in all areas of the practice. Furthermore, they understand that by enabling the staff to attend training on a regular basis, they are continuously enhancing the welfare, learning and

development opportunities for the children in their care and as a result, outcomes in children's achievements and well-being are extremely high. Relationships with parents are excellent with a continual free flow of information which contributes significantly to children's progress and well-being at the setting. Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to all aspects of their children's learning and development and work collaboratively with the nursery staff in reviewing their child's next steps for learning. Parent's comments during the inspection visit, evidenced that they are extremely happy with the service provided and unreservedly grateful to the staff for the opportunities their children receive in the nursery. Partnerships with other providers and other agencies involved in the care and development of the children are also well established and ensure children benefit from continuity in their care and learning.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children**

Children are warmly welcomed by the caring staff who earnestly greet all children and parents with respect and consideration. Children settle exceptionally well upon arrival, even children who are new to the setting, and are unmistakably happy and content in the setting. Children flourish and gain great confidence and self esteem as a result of the dedication and expertise of the staff who care for them. Their sense of belonging is clearly evident as they move confidently around the comfortable and cosy group rooms.

Children's behaviour is exemplary and they display high levels of cooperation with each other as they play. Staff are very positive role models, treating the children and each other with genuine mutual respect and consideration. There is a calm and relaxed atmosphere throughout the whole nursery, affording the children with a nurturing environment within which they can explore and grow. Children display an excellent awareness of safety issues and learn to keep themselves safe as they are gently reminded to walk inside and how to use equipment, such as scissors safely. Older children are encouraged to think about being responsible for their own safety and take part in talks about what might happen if they do not obey the nursery rules.

Children's independence in their personal hygiene routines is supported through generally effective hygiene practices. Children know to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating and are afforded ownership of their personal care needs in accordance to their age and stage of development. Babies and younger children's flannels however, are stored in areas that are limited in space, which lends itself to the potential for cross infection. All other health considerations, including those relating to nappy changing arrangements are, however, met to a high standard overall.

Staff ensure children's individual dietary needs are sensitively met and give children excellent opportunities to learn about what keeps them healthy. They actively encourage them to eat the nutritious freshly prepared meals, explaining how they help their bodies to grow and be healthy. Children also grow fruit and vegetables in the nursery garden, affording them first hand experiences of how to tend the plants and how they grow and develop.

Children play outside every day as part of a healthy lifestyle, enjoying climbing on

apparatus or running freely around the open spaces in the gardens and enjoy walks along the nearby bridal path. Babies also enjoy daily opportunities to go outside, either in the garden or for strolls in the nursery buggies, around the quiet grounds surrounding the setting. Children evidently relish their time in the vibrant setting and are clearly motivated to learn and explore with the support of the fully attentive staff. The children's key workers provide the children with play and learning opportunities that take full account of their individual needs and consistently build on children's existing knowledge and skills. Highly effective observation and assessment systems and comprehensive planning means that all children are making significant gains in their learning.

Young children enjoy an abundance of exceptionally well planned activities and experiences that help them develop in all areas of learning. Older children enthusiastically take part in activities that match their great curiosity and desire to explore and learn. For example, they study the life cycle of tadpoles.

All children show high levels of confidence and value themselves and each other. In addition, they show excellent awareness of other people's feelings and needs, as a result of the staffs sensitive and caring approach. Children's understanding of diversity, similarities and differences are successfully supported by activities, such as the celebration of a wide range of festivals.

Children develop skills in using everyday information and communication technology as they complete simple programs on the computer and use the vast array of electronic and programmable toys and resources throughout the nursery. Young babies happily explore within the security and comfort of their dedicated room. They investigate the toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development, with the gentle support of the experienced baby room staff. Consequently, all children throughout the setting are able to have fun and make significant progress in their development, whilst thoroughly enjoying their time at the setting.

## 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*

### The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

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

<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

### The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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## **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