

The Lawns Early Excellence & Childrens Centre



The Baulk, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 0PT

Inspection date	3 February 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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		Outstanding	1
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

- Teaching is good because staff listen to children and plan challenging activities that meet the needs of all children. As a result, all children make good progress.
- Children's communication and language develops well because staff emphasise speaking and listening throughout all activities. All staff use signing as another method of engaging children.
- Children eagerly explore nature and wildlife in the extremely well-equipped woodland garden. They enhance their physical health considerably as they run and chase each other along the woodland tracks.
- Staff use highly effective methods to get to know children. Home visits are particularly useful and help staff to fully understand children's individual needs. This supports children to form close attachments.
- The staff work very closely with other agencies and parents. They host meetings and follow programmes that support children's needs providing excellent support that enables every child to learn and develop well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make best use of information gathered through children's assessments to help children to make optimum progress in learning.
- Children cannot always freely access all play materials due to the restrictions of the playroom storage areas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already good planning so that it includes more sharply focused links to children's precise learning needs, to support their progress to the very optimum
- enhance the opportunities for children to make more independent choices by reviewing the accessibility of resources.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outside.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff, and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector talked with a selection of parents and asked them their views.
- The inspector spoke with a sample of staff and children.
- The inspector carried out a meeting with the executive headteacher.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation processes.

Inspector

Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their knowledge of how children learn to provide interesting activities. They understand the importance of allowing children to discover things by themselves. Children develop essential skills for future learning, asking questions and reviewing what they have learnt. This helps to ensure they are well prepared for a move to nursery or another setting. Staff support children's literacy because they provide home reading books to be shared with their parents. Children begin to understand early technology because staff provide resources they can operate themselves, such as remote control units. Children generally move freely between activities but, on occasions, cannot lead their own learning because of the limitations of storage in the playroom. Planning and assessment arrangements are good. Each child's starting point is informed by a progress check between the ages of two and three years that is completed when care begins. The staff understand each child's individual learning and development but are continuing to strengthen the way that they link assessment to planning to maximise the use of that information.

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

Excellent arrangements to care for children support their well-being. Staff are exceptional role models who take every opportunity to promote children's self-esteem and understanding of others. For example, during minor disagreements, staff help very young children understand the feelings of others. They demonstrate, using signing, how sad their friends are, which results in children readily offering a 'sorry' and a cuddle to their friends. Children eagerly take responsibility for routines because staff recognise the importance of independence. For example, children offer to help remove paintings from the easel before washing it down, and clear the dough away before washing the table. They gain additional benefits of safety awareness as they discuss how to take care with the metal clips that hold the paper to the easel.

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

Leaders have high expectations for the quality of care that is offered to children and families. Regular reviews of all procedures take place to ensure that all safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are met. Arrangements to safeguard children are robust. Strong safety and security measures are in place to keep children safe. Very effective arrangements for recruiting new staff, and extended induction programmes, help to ensure that children are cared for by suitable people. Insightful reflective practice uses the views of all staff to accurately identify how the practice can improve further. Supportive methods of performance management and supervision, together with regular team meetings, help to motivate staff as they strive towards continuous improvement. All staff attend regular training courses. This enables them to continue to provide a nurturing environment for children that prepares them very well for their move into the nursery or to other settings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY293622
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	987313
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	The Lawns Early Excellence & Childrens Centre Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01767 312312

The Lawns Early Excellence Centre (Saplings) was registered in 2005. The setting employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The setting opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.45am to 11.45am. The setting also offers afternoon sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-year-old children.

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