

Little Den Pre School

The Den, Chawton Park Road, ALTON, Hampshire, GU34 1RQ



Inspection date

6 February 2015

Previous inspection date

22 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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		Good	2
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

- The staff and manager monitor children's progress with detailed observations and assessments. This helps them to identify gaps and plan to extend children's learning promptly.
- Staff use good opportunities to teach children how to keep safe through everyday activities, such as, cutting up fruits for snack times.
- Staff have established very strong relationships with parents. They invite them to attend sessions to experience a day in the pre-school. This gives them plenty of opportunities to share information with their child's key person.
- The manager and staff have a good understanding of what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. This helps to safeguard children's welfare and well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide children with as many opportunities and resources outdoors, as indoors, for children to extend their literacy skills and express themselves through art and design.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the learning opportunities outside by offering even more resources to develop children's literacy skills, and chances to express themselves through art and design.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had a discussion with the children, staff and manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation relating to safeguarding, suitability records, policies and procedures and learning and development.

Inspector

Helen Porter

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide good resources and activities to extend children's learning in all areas inside. For example, when children play in the dry sand staff add water to it so children can explore the wet sand and learn that they can mould it into shapes, such as castles. Staff ask children skilful questions, which encourage them to respond with their own thoughts. They learn new language such as 'sticky'. This helps to develop and extend children's language skills as they build new vocabulary. Outside, staff extend children's physical skills well as they provide resources, such as bikes and ride-on cars. Children create their own games as they ride up and down the ramp. However, staff do not provide as many opportunities outside for children to express themselves through art or extend their literacy skills. The relationships with parents are strong. Staff invite them to take part in daily activities, such as, reading stories and teaching children other languages. Parents state that they feel well-informed about their child's progress at the pre-school.

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

The key person system is well-established. Staff know children's needs and interests well, which helps children settle in to the pre-school promptly and build strong relationships. Staff promote children's hygiene well. They provide children with free access to the garden area. This gives them plenty of chances for fresh air and exercise. They provide healthy snacks, such as fruits, and talk to children about where these fruits come from. Children learn good hygiene practices as staff remind them to wash their own hands after blowing their noses. Staff use an interactive 'rules board' to teach children positive rules to promote good behaviour, such as, sharing with friends. They learn to walk in the room instead of running, which helps to keep themselves and others safe.

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

The manager has a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. There are robust recruitment and induction systems to help to check the suitability of staff. Staff carry out daily checks of the premises to help minimise any risks for children and adults. The manager is developing supervision meetings to help monitor staff performance and identify any training needs. There are good links with other provisions, such as, local schools. Staff invite teachers and carers to attend the setting to meet children and share information. The manager attends local meetings regularly with the managers of other local settings. This helps her to reflect on the quality of the provision and share practice with other professionals. The manager completes a self-evaluation of the pre-school and includes the views of parents and staff. This helps her to identify strengths and plan future improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507935
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	846838
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Little Den Pre School PG Committee
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2011
Telephone number	0794 1367287

Little Den Pre School has been registered since 1983. It operates from a scout building on the western outskirts of Alton, in Hampshire. The pre-school opens between 9.15am to 12.15 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it is open between 9.15am to 2.15pm. The pre-school is managed by a committee of parents, and is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. They receive funding for the provision of early years education for children aged two, three and four. There are five staff members, all of whom hold a level 3 childcare qualification.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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