

Little Stars Nursery

Kemsley Village Hall, The Square, Ridham Avenue, Kemsley, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent, ME10 2SL



Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

17 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They plan and provide challenging activities adapted to children's individual needs and interests. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points and capabilities.
- Children are confident and independent learners because they form strong bonds with staff and develop good self-esteem.
- Staff form good relationships with local schools. For example, they invite reception teachers to meet the children and share information. This helps to provide continuity in learning as children move to school.
- Children are safeguarded well because staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's welfare. Staff update their knowledge regularly through training courses and regular staff meetings.
- The manager monitors the educational programmes and children's progress well, she ensures staff are supported in their professional development.
- The manager uses good self-evaluation systems to help identify the nursery's strengths and areas for improvements. This includes the views from children, staff and parents.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently allow children sufficient time to respond to questions to maximise their critical thinking skills.
- Staff do not always make the most of story times to promote opportunities for younger children to listen and extend their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the organisation at story time so that younger children are encouraged to listen
- strengthen children's critical thinking skills, by allowing them sufficient time to respond to questions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the staff, children and manager.
- The inspector took account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector viewed children's records, checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children, and the nursery's self-evaluation and improvement plans.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a wide range of activities and experiences to promote children's learning and the quality of teaching is good. Children have free access to the outdoor area that helps them develop their independence. Staff work hard to support children, offering a range of opportunities to enhance their learning and help them to reach their full potential. For example, children develop their mathematical skills as they explore with natural objects and numbers outdoors. Staff skilfully ask children questions to extend their learning, however, at times staff do not always allow sufficient time for children to respond. As a result, children's critical thinking skills are not always fully maximised. Staff effectively support children's communication and language development as they model good language skills and introduce new words. Consequently, children who are learning English as an additional language are making exceptional progress. Staff enhance children's creativity as they build a pirates ship outdoors and go on a treasure hunt. Staff support children's literacy skills well with written words around the environment. Children have access to a well-resourced book area. However, at story time younger children sit for extended periods of time and become restless and find it difficult to be attentive.

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

The key person system is well established. Staff work extremely well as a team to support all children's interests and needs by sharing information regularly. This helps support smooth transitions as children move in to the next room. Children settle well into the nursery because they make good attachments with staff. Staff are caring and affectionate. They give constant praise and encouragement to children's efforts and achievements. As a result, children develop good sense of belonging and self-esteem. Staff teach children good hygiene practices. Children understand to wash their hands before eating and after messy play. Staff use snack time to talk to children about healthy foods, and where fruit and vegetables come from.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager carries out regular supervisions with staff, so they can evaluate their practice, identify training needs and discuss children's progress. Staff have a secure understanding of how to keep children safe and well protected. The manager has established links with other professionals and settings to support the continuity in care and learning for children. Staff develop positive relationships with parents, who provide positive comments about the progress their children are making.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY438353
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	993201
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Claire Adele Elliott
Date of previous inspection	17 September 2014
Telephone number	07432145378

Little Stars Nursery registered in 2012 and is situated next to the community hall in Kemsley, Kent. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. There are 13 members of staff, including the manager, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at National Vocational Qualification level 3 and three have level 2.

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