

Little Acorns

Penponds County Primary School, Higher Penponds, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0QN



Inspection date

11 February 2015

Previous inspection date

12 June 2009

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

- Close links with parents enable staff to support families and meet their children's needs well.
- Staff use their knowledge of individual children and how they learn to create well-focused personal plans. This enables them to support children who need additional help to make good progress in their learning.
- Staff teach children phonics so they become familiar with the sounds of letters, giving them a secure basis for future literacy skills when they move onto school.
- Children celebrate and learn about difference and diversity. This is through activities using different languages and the involvement of parents in sharing information about their culture and language.
- The pre-school is a calm and safe environment because staff have a high expectation for cooperative play. Children show they understand the importance of sharing and seek adult support in resolving conflict if the need arises.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not provide a wider range of ways for children to communicate and express themselves, and understand expectations and routines more easily.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the ways in which children can communicate, to express themselves, and understand expectations and routines more easily.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outdoor play areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the chairperson, manager and staff.
- The inspector checked documents relating to staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector sampled documentation regarding planning and children's progress.

Inspector

Lynne Bowden

Inspection findings

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

Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff involve them in establishing children's starting points and ongoing assessments. This helps them to plan activities that target children's individual learning needs so all children make good progress. Staff encourage children to use mathematical language as they weigh out cooking ingredients. They talk about money and prices in the role-play shop. This helps children learn about number use in meaningful situations. Staff support children's interests well through conversations. Children listen with concentration and attention to the stories staff read. However, staff do not provide a wider variety of ways for children to communicate and express themselves and understand expectations and routines, for example, through sign language, pictures and timelines. At snack time, children recognise their and their friend's names on their placemats. This develops children's literacy skills as they see writing used for a purpose. Staff have close links with the reception teacher in the host school. This prepares children well for the move onto school. Children's developing confidence, independence and communication skills equip them well for their future learning.

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

Children feel safe and secure in the pre-school. They are confident that staff will support them in managing any disputes with their friends. This helps children learn to behave well. Staff work consistently as a team and quickly respond to any signs of disruption. They give children clear boundaries and engage them in positive activities. The premises are secure, welcoming and well organised to support children's well-being. Children learn about healthy and safe practices because staff reinforce these in daily routines. Children learn about different cultures, customs and other languages through visits to the pre-school by parents. Staff plan well for children's learning outdoors. Children explore and investigate in their play and develop good control of their bodies using different equipment.

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

Staff and committee have a good understanding of their responsibilities. The manager carefully monitors children's progress to ensure planning supports children in making good progress across all areas of learning. The pre-school follows appropriate systems to check the suitability of committee members and staff. The committee and staff understand child protection procedures and their responsibilities to safeguard children. They undertake frequent safety checks to keep children safe. Committee members are active in monitoring practice at the pre-school and are supportive of staff development and training. Staff use recent training to monitor children's speech and communication more closely, to help them target support and planning where needed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	102824
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	835663
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	25
Name of provider	Little Acorns Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	12 June 2009
Telephone number	01209 718 990

Little Acorns pre-school registered in 1992 and is managed by a committee of parents and community members. It operates from a purpose-built unit in the grounds of Penponds County Primary School. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. Sessions run from 8:45am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday, term time only. The pre-school receives early years education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are five staff members employed to work with the children. The manager is a qualified teacher, three staff have early years qualifications at level 3 and the fifth member is working towards their level 2 qualification.

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