

Little Acorns Nursery

Stubley Lane, Dronfield, Derbyshire, S18 1LS



Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

27 August 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

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff effectively support children's communication skills and this means children make progress in their learning.
- Staff know individual children very well. They use information gained from observations of children effectively, to plan interesting and engaging activities. Consequently, children experience a broad curriculum across all the areas of learning and development.
- Staff build strong relationships with children and parents. They work closely with parents to promote children's well-being and overall development.
- Children are safeguarded because all staff understand and implement the policies and procedures designed to protect children.
- The manager effectively monitors the impact of training and quality of teaching. As a result, staff receive targeted support to ensure outcomes for children are continuing to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions staff do not take full advantage of their assessments of children's learning, in order to promote very rapid progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the use of assessments to ensure that all planning for children's learning is precise so that they make the very best possible progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in the main playrooms and outside.
- The inspector talked to the manager, staff, key persons and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at various documents, including a sample of policies and procedures, children's records, planning and assessment and evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector took account of parents and carers views spoken to on the day and from information included in the provider's own parent survey.

Inspector

Alison Byers

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is good because staff have a thorough understanding of how to promote children's learning. They effectively support children to be active learners. For example, staff help babies explore scooping and tipping with sparkly sand and dry pasta shapes. Children of all age groups make good progress in their communication and language skills. Staff working with babies ensure dummies are rarely used so they can promote early speech. Children preparing for school demonstrate excellent communication skills and confidently talk to visitors. Staff skilfully question children to help them make connections in their learning. Staff know individual children very well and use their observations to plan engaging activities. For example, children enjoy extended imaginative play in a camping role play area. Staff make regular assessments of children's progress. However, these are not always precise to ensure children make the very best progress.

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

Staff develop strong relationships with parents that promote children's overall well-being. They work in partnership to manage changes in children's care and development, such as sleep routines and self-feeding habits for babies. Children's independence is well promoted. Staff display toys so that babies can make their own choices. Older children count out cutlery and serve themselves at lunchtime. All children enjoy daily fresh air in the well-resourced outdoor area. Children form secure attachments to staff who are sensitive to their emotional development. Staff develop children's confidence as they transfer between groups within the nursery and into school. Staff work in partnerships with other settings and agencies. As a result, children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported. Children are kept safe through effective implementation of policies, such as registers of attendance and safeguarding procedures.

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

The staff and leaders have worked hard to successfully drive improvements since their last inspection. The manager has embraced support from the local authority to work on a targeted action plan. Staff have attended training to improve their knowledge of child development. The manager uses a comprehensive process of observations of practice to inform supervisions with all staff. Consequently, she effectively monitors the impact of training and the resulting improvement in the quality of teaching. All staff understand their role in improving outcomes for children and experienced staff continuously role model effective teaching. The manager reviews staff's assessments of children to identify any not making the expected progress. Partnership working with other professional and settings is good. This ensures children benefit from a shared approach to their care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY332334
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	989224
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Indra Kumari Athi
Date of previous inspection	27 August 2014
Telephone number	01246 299750

Little Acorns Nursery was registered in 2006. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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