

Little Learners Child Care Centre



New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME15 9QL

Inspection date 25 February 2015
Previous inspection date 11 January 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

- Staff plan activities that match children's interests, needs and abilities. They monitor children's development accurately to help them make good progress.
- The manager and staff have good links with neighbouring schools, which helps children prepare well for starting school.
- Children settle quickly and form secure emotional attachments with staff as the key person system is effective.
- The highly qualified leadership team implement robust performance management and professional development systems. This helps to evaluate the service and drive improvement effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's mathematical skills outdoors.
- Some adult-led group activities in the pre-school room do not always maintain children's interest.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's mathematical learning further outdoors
- review the organisation of group activities so that children are challenged and remain fully engaged in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the nursery premises with the manager.
- The inspector observed children's play and staff interactions, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documentation including children's records, staff suitability and qualifications, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

The overall quality of teaching is good. Staff create a calm and stimulating environment, which effectively supports children's well-being. They seek relevant information from parents during home visits to help them meet children's individual needs when they start. Staff promote children's communication and language development effectively. They develop children's listening skills, through story books and nursery rhymes. Staff model clear language, listen carefully to children and give them time to think and respond. Staff do not always organise group activities to ensure children engage in their learning fully, which means children sometimes become bored. Younger children observe natural objects and living things during a nature walk to learn about the world they live in. For example, they look at flowers growing and listen to birds sing. Older children develop early reading skills, such as recognising their name. Children learn about colour, shape, size and number during many activities, particularly indoors. However, staff do not always extend children's knowledge about shape, space and size during activities outdoors, to fully support children that learn best outside.

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

Staff supervise children closely. They support children well during times of change, such as when they move room. This means children soon feel confident in their new room and explore the toys and activities. Babies are content and especially enjoy sharing books with staff. Children have good opportunities to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. They enjoy freshly prepared healthy meals and snacks, and they know to wash their hands before eating. Older children develop their independence and self-care skills well, for example, they pour their own drinks and serve their own meals. Children enjoy outdoor play, they develop their large muscles effectively as they climb and balance on apparatus, and use large mops to wash the cars.

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

The manager has established effective systems for the induction of new staff so that they feel confident about their roles and responsibilities. Staff supervision and arrangements for training are effective to promote good practice, which supports children's learning and well-being strongly. Staff complete effective observations and assessments and the manager tracks children's progress individually and as a group. As a result, staff identify and close any gaps in children's learning. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare and the procedures to follow should they have concerns about children. The manager and staff value the views of parents and children and develop clear plans for further improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411555
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	831933
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	43
Name of provider	Future Schools Trust
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2011
Telephone number	01622 743286

Little Learners Child Care Centre registered in 2010. It operates from New Line Learning Academy, in Maidstone, Kent. The centre is open each weekday from 7.30am to 5pm, for 40 weeks of the year. The provider employs 14 staff, including the manager. The manager holds a level 6 qualification, one member of staff holds a level 4 qualification and 12 staff hold level 3 qualifications. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education to children aged two, three and four.

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