

Little Acorns Nursery

382 London Road, Leicester, LE2 2PN



Inspection date

17 March 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Children's next steps in learning are effectively implemented through well-planned, purposeful activities. The quality of staff's teaching is consistently good. As a result, all children make good progress in their learning. They are well prepared for their move to school.
- Staff have attended training on behaviour management and are positive role models. Consequently, children behave well as they are given clear expectations about the ways to behave appropriately.
- Staff are organised well and ensure that children's needs are fully met. The key-person system is well established and children have strong emotional bonds with the staff that care for them. Children are emotionally well prepared for their next stage in learning.
- Staff rigorously monitor the quality and cleanliness of the resources, and carry out risk assessments of the environment and activities. This ensures that the premises, toys and equipment are safe and suitable for use.
- The managers implement robust systems to safeguard children through careful vetting and recruitment procedures. The suitability of staff is regularly checked.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to further extend planned activities to encourage children to explore and investigate.
- Staff sometimes ask questions that can only be answered in one way. This means that children are not always able to share their thoughts and ideas to support their critical thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance planned activities even further by providing children with even more opportunities to explore and investigate, for example, by providing reference books and resources, such as magnifying glasses when searching for mini-beasts in the garden area
- provide even more opportunities for children to share their thoughts and ideas by asking more open-ended questions as they play to promote conversation and further support their critical thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery.
- The inspector observed children during activities in all areas of the nursery, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and a range of other documentation. This was discussed with staff at regular intervals.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff working with children and the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and from written feedback provided.

Inspector

Tracy Hopkins

Inspection findings

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

Resources in every room are presented at a low level so children can access them freely. Babies are beginning to explore books. Staff introduce new vocabulary, as they follow the children's lead. This encourages babies' curiosity and confidence and they begin to learn different words in a meaningful context. Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery as they learn to socialise and make friends. Planning of activities arises from accurate observations of children's efforts and achievements as they learn through play. However, activities are not always extended to maximise learning. This means that on occasions children have fewer opportunities to explore and investigate. For example, children search for mini-beasts in the garden area. Staff miss opportunities to extend this further, as resources, such as reference books and magnifying glasses are not readily available. In addition, children's critical thinking skills are not fully maximised. This is because staff sometimes ask questions that can only be answered in one way. This means that children are not always able to share their detailed thoughts and ideas.

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

Staff are warm and caring. This gives children a sense of belonging and develops their self-confidence. Children's work and photographs are displayed throughout the nursery, making them feel valued and special. The nursery provides well-balanced meals and snacks. All children have constant access to fresh drinking water. All the staff are aware of, and ensure they meet, children's allergies or specific dietary needs. Children benefit from daily opportunities to engage in physical exercise. The premises are spacious, light and welcoming. Staff have established positive links with schools and other early years providers. This helps children move seamlessly on to other settings. Staff are vigilant in maintaining children's safety as they supervise them appropriately at all times. Children are beginning to take some calculated risks in their play. For example, children climb the wooden frame with skill and take their time to reach the top, before they slide down the slide.

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

The managers carefully track children's progress across the seven areas of learning. This helps them target the development of individuals and groups of children. Gaps in children's learning are quickly identified and interventions are sought, when necessary. Managers ensure that a high quality supervision process is accessed by all staff. For example, managers complete observations of staffs' practice each week. This, along with supervision meetings, helps staff to identify training needs. Staff access relevant training necessary to support individual children, and their designated roles within the nursery. Managers acknowledge the importance of self-evaluation. They fully consider the views of children, parents and other professionals. They use this feedback to monitor and implement successful improvement plans. This helps improve the positive outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479186
Local authority	Leicester City
Inspection number	1008371
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	98
Name of provider	Leicestershire Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01162705086

Little Acorns Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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