

# Little Oaks Nursery

Oakley House, 544 Etruria Road, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 0SX



## Inspection date

13 April 2015

Previous inspection date

21 February 2014

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Well-qualified staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They provide children with an interesting and inviting learning environment, inside and outside.
- Children are happy and enjoy their time in the setting. This is because staff are sensitive to their needs and effectively support their emotional well-being.
- Staff use regular observations and accurate assessments to plan activities and experiences that reflect children's interests and next steps in learning.
- Staff help children to develop an understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles. They learn about healthy food, go out in the fresh air and exercise as part of daily routines.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure that children's needs are met and their learning is well supported.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff in the toddler room occasionally miss opportunities to engage all children in the activities. As a result, some children lose interest.
- On occasion, children have to sit and wait before they can access the outdoor area and do not have challenging and stimulating activities to engage in during this time.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff's interactions with children in the toddler room by engaging all children in activities and capturing their interests, so that they are supported to make best progress
- review the arrangements prior to accessing the outdoor area to ensure that children's learning is maximised at all times.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities inside the main rooms and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector participated in a tour of the premises with the deputy manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the deputy managers.
- The inspector looked at a variety of documentation including, self-evaluation, policies and procedures, evidence of the suitability of staff and children's development files.
- The inspector spoke to the parents, children and staff during the inspection.

### Inspector

Carole Price

## Inspection findings

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

The staff at the nursery plan a wide range of activities to support children's good progress. Older children in the pre-school room enjoy creative activities, such as vegetable printing and making different colours by mixing paint. Younger children and babies enjoy making patterns and sandcastles in the sand. Children of all ages engage in imaginative pretend play, as they choose clothes for dressing up and prepare food in the role-play kitchen. Children's language and communication skills are effectively promoted, as staff ask questions to discuss what they doing as well as modelling vocabulary for babies and younger children. Staff also use visual timetables so children are aware of what will happen next. This is beneficial for children who speak English as an additional language who quickly become confident to express themselves. The staff's interactions and teaching techniques generally show their good understanding of how to engage and capture all children's interests. However, occasionally some staff in the toddler room miss opportunities to engage all children in the activities. As a result, some children lose interest. There is a successful balance between adult-led and child-led activities both indoors and out. However, children are sometimes left waiting for periods of time while staff check that the outdoor area is safe. This means that during this time, children do not have any meaningful engagement to continuously challenge and interest them.

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

Children are happy and settled at the nursery. Staff offer cuddles and reassurance at appropriate times, such as upon waking after sleeping and during settling-in visits. Children are confident and independent in what they can do. This helps them to develop emotional resilience, equipping them well for moving on to school. Staff remind children of behaviour expectations as they encourage children to share and take turns with the toys. Children are learning about how to manage risks safely as they reminded how to walk down the stairs and use the hand rail. Children negotiate space successfully in the outdoor environment as they ride in the cars and participate in races. Children gain an awareness of healthy eating during mealtimes as staff sit with them and discuss different foods.

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

Managers and staff have a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The management team monitor all children's progress and identify areas for improvement to help narrow gaps in children's learning. Furthermore, staff's professional development is supported through regular supervisions, appraisals and peer reviews. This attention to detail and reflective approach ensures that all children's individual needs are considered. Children are safe in the setting. This is because staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child or a staff member. Self-evaluation takes into account the views of all stakeholders, and therefore, helps to drive improvement. The nursery has addressed actions raised at the previous inspection, and has future plans to further strengthen the good quality of care provided for children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	218450
<b>Local authority</b>	Staffordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1010704
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	58
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	54
<b>Name of provider</b>	Little Oaks Day Nursery Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	21 February 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01782 637513

Little Oaks Nursery was registered in 1998 and is privately owned. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff, of whom 11 hold an appropriate early years qualification. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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