

Apple Tree Day Nursery

27 Church Drive, Markfield, Leicestershire, LE67 9UH



Inspection date

8 April 2015

Previous inspection date

16 March 2010

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		Outstanding	1
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 have formed very strong partnerships with parents, who value the service highly. They share detailed information when children first start and use this to identify their starting points. Staff consistently involve parents and continue to exchange information to support every child in their care and learning.
- Staff demonstrate a high regard to the safety of children. They ensure that the environment is safe and resources are appropriate to children's individual needs. Great care and consideration is made to the presentation of activities both indoors and out, providing a highly stimulating learning environment for children.
- Children of all ages get on well together, know what is expected of them, learn to take turns and value one another. A calm and harmonious atmosphere supports children's learning, and any minor disputes are dealt with very quickly.
- Children make good progress because staff know and understand what children need to learn. Staff complete regular assessments and plan activities that reflect children's individual needs and interests.
- Arrangements for safeguarding children are effective because clear policies and procedures are in place to underpin good practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Arrangements for the performance management of staff is not always fully effective in ensuring training opportunities are accurately targeted.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the current arrangements for the performance management of staff and ensure that training opportunities are targeted to individual learning needs, in order to enhance the already good quality of teaching, so that children reach the highest levels of achievement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outdoor play area.
- The inspector held meetings with the providers and manager, and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures and range of other documentation. She checked the evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector had a tour of the setting with the deputy manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Claire Jenner

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 all staff fully understand how to promote children's learning and development. Babies use their senses and bodies to explore the environment. They move from one activity to the next and stop to examine items of interest. For example, they investigate treasure boxes containing a collection of natural materials and objects. Older children use building bricks. They design and build 'super magic cars', ably supported by staff who engage them in conversations to extend language, counting and early literacy skills. Children have good opportunities to celebrate cultural events and learn about differences. They meet people from the local community and play with puppets and dolls that represent different lifestyles, during role play and group discussion time. Children have good opportunities to practice their physical skills. For example, older and younger children share in the delight of propelling themselves on wheeled toys, skilfully avoiding obstacles. Children are enthusiastic learners and gain independence, self-esteem and become self-motivated. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning.

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

Staff develop excellent relationships with children. This means that their individual needs are extremely well met and they form strong attachments with staff. The open-plan play area and staff's flexible approach, means that children of all ages have opportunities to play together. This helps children to be well prepared for changes as they move from room to room within the nursery. In addition, older children getting ready to move onto their next stage of learning are very well supported. This is because staff have established partnerships and work very closely with schools in the local area. Children are actively encouraged to be independent and successfully do things for themselves. Therefore, they gain high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children learn how to make healthy food choices as they are offered a varied and nutritious range of meals and snacks. They learn about the importance of exercise and frequently participate in physical activities in the garden and surrounding areas.

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

Established recruitment and vetting procedures mean that staff undergo robust suitability checks. They complete a thorough induction process to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. Managers and staff are enthusiastic about what they do and want the best for the children. Since the last inspection, managers have increased their level of qualification and continue to network with other professionals. They use this well to continually improve the quality of the provision. Staff are regularly observed by managers as part of their professional development. They also attend staff meetings and appraisals. However, managers do not always effectively guide staff to the most pertinent training opportunities based on their learning needs. This means the programme of professional development is not yet sharply focused, in order to raise children's learning to the highest level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	223186
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	866065
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Steven Chadwick and Yazmin Chadwick Partnership
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2010
Telephone number	01530249872

Apple Tree Nursery was registered in 1998. It is privately managed. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. This includes one member of staff with Early Years Professional status, and two with relevant degrees. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, 7.15am until 6pm. There is also a Kidz Club available, taking children up to 12 years of age, before and after school, and for holiday care. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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