

Longton Ladybirds Nursery School

Longton Ladybirds, 45 School Lane, Longton, Preston, PR4 5ZA



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

14 April 2015

3 February 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		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 enjoy a good variety of stimulating activities, delivered by enthusiastic and well-qualified staff. As a result, children are making very good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding. They are aware of the procedures they must follow should they have concerns about the safety of a child.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are very well supported through well-established partnerships with parents and external agencies.
- 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 have strong relationships with other professionals, such as teachers from local schools. This helps them to prepare children well for their move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers and staff have not fully explored the use of peer observation, in order to further evaluate and build upon their already good practice.
- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to further extend children's learning about the benefits of healthy eating.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- re-introduce peer observations to further promote professional development and share good practice across the staff team, in order to enhance children's learning further
- strengthen children's understanding of how nutritious foods contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises and observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector met with the manager, carried out a joint observation and spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's development records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery and a range of other records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Jeanette Brookfield

Inspection findings

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

Staff skilfully plan and adapt activities so that they are tailored to meet children's individual needs, interests and skills. Children have access to a wide range of toys and resources that help them to develop independence. Staff focus on increasing all children's communication and language skills. For example, they use sign language and picture symbols. They introduce new vocabulary, repeat words and ask challenging questions to make children think. Staff plan good activities outside to help children to continue learning in their chosen environments. For example, children enjoy hunting for bugs and insects under leaves and tree bark. They use magnifying viewers to look closely at what they find. Children use mathematical language to talk about shapes, size and length. Early literacy skills are promoted well as children join in with stories, songs and rhymes. They learn to recognise letters and words, such as their own names, and begin to write and make marks with purpose. As a result, children are well supported to acquire skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning.

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

Children settle quickly because staff provide flexible settling-in arrangements, which enable them to get to know the parents and children well. Children arrive at nursery eager and immediately immerse themselves in play. They behave well and learn to share and take turns, because staff use consistent ways to help them understand what is expected of them. Staff encourage children's self-help skills, such as pouring their own drinks and cutting their own fruit. However, staff do not use these opportunities to develop children's knowledge about the importance of healthy eating. Children are learning to keep themselves safe. They are reminded how to use tools and equipment safely. All necessary fire safety equipment is in place and frequently checked. The evacuation procedure is also displayed and reviewed regularly.

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

Managers have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Systems to evaluate what is working well and what needs to improve are effective and take into account the views of staff, parents and children. Regular staff meetings, supervision and individual targets for development help improve the quality of the nursery provision and staff practice. However, opportunities for staff to complete peer observations to discuss and share best practice are not routinely available. As a result, opportunities to raise the quality of teaching even higher and support reflective practice even further are not fully utilised. The management team monitor the progress children make to ensure that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and planned for. This means that all children make good progress in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	309375
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	871855
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Longton Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2010
Telephone number	01772 612 101

Longton Ladybird's Nursery School was registered in 1992. It opens from Monday to Friday, during term-time only. Sessions are from 9am until 12.30pm each morning, and 1pm until 4pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The nursery school also offers a lunch club between 12.30pm and 1pm, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It employs five members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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