

Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd



Lancaster Lodge, Lancaster Way Business Park, ELY, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3NX

Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

25 March 2014

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| | 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 meets legal requirements for early years settings | | | |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children form effective relationships with their key person and other staff working within the nursery. This helps them to settle and develop confidence and means that they are well prepared for the next stage in their learning
- Children are supported well by consistent staff who are knowledgeable. They effectively challenge children's learning, taking every opportunity to promote their curiosity. Staff interact skilfully with children to question and challenge their thinking.
- Strong relationships have developed between parents and nursery staff which ensures that parents are well informed about their children's developmental progress.
- Staff work well as a team, which means that the organisation of the nursery is good. The nursery provides a relaxed, fun and homely environment where each child is respected.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The organisation of whole group story time can become chaotic and does not always meet the needs of the mixed age range of children who are at differing stages developmentally.
- Recruitment and induction procedures for staff and students are not clearly documented to demonstrate how suitability decisions have been made.
- Opportunities for children to experience continuous play in the outdoor play area have not yet been implemented.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of whole group story time to ensure that it meets the needs of the mixed age range of children who are at differing stages developmentally
- review the recruitment and induction procedures for staff and students to ensure that clear evidence is provided to demonstrate how suitability decisions have been made.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching and its impact on children's learning both indoors and outside.
- The inspectors conducted a joint observation with the registered provider.
- The inspectors looked at a range of documentation, including records of the progress children have made and the settings improvement plan.
- The inspectors spoke with staff and children at suitable times throughout the inspection
- The inspectors spoke to a numbers of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lesley Barrett / Sian Extence

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan the environment well to help children make good progress across the seven areas of learning. Children are keen and inquisitive learners as they enjoy a wide range of activities and experiences inside and out. Skilful interactions from staff encourages children to become confident and critical learners. Younger children learn from older children as they watch an activity and model their actions. For example, when using tools at the work bench. Staff plan activities according to children's individual needs and interests. Although, this is not always implemented through to group story time. Sound settling in and transition between rooms procedures, are flexible according to the children's and parents needs, helping children to settle more easily.

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

Children behave well and are keen to learn because staff have high expectations and offer clear boundaries and routines. Visual aids help children become familiar with the daily routines and communicate their needs. For example, a young child pointed to a picture of a drink to let their key person know what they wanted. Children enjoy a varied range of healthy meals and snacks. All staff are made aware of children's individual dietary requirements. Meal and snack times provide good opportunities for children to be social and gain independence. Risks assessments have been reviewed and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. For example, risk assessing the outdoor environment before children have access to the area.

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

Leaders aspire to improve and have developed practice by working on the actions raised at the last inspection. They have a secure understanding of their responsibilities. They effectively implement a wide range of policies and procedures and have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. Systems to ensure that staff are suitable for their role are followed, however these are not consistently documented. Staff are monitored closely and support is provided for them to improve their practice and attend training. Strong relationships have developed with parents, who speak highly about the individual support provided. Management have plans in place to encourage parents to become increasingly involved in their children's learning. Since the last inspection, leaders have been working to improve opportunities for children to access the outdoor area independently. This has taken time due to building work, however plans are in place for this to be offered to children soon.

Setting details

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Unique reference number | EY458324 |
| Local authority | Cambridgeshire |
| Inspection number | 1009322 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 0 - 17 |
| Total number of places | 31 |
| Number of children on roll | 50 |
| Name of provider | Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd |
| Date of previous inspection | 25 March 2014 |
| Telephone number | 01353662808 |

Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd was opened in 2013 and is privately owned. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It operates from a converted bungalow on the Lancaster Way Business Park, near Ely, Cambridgeshire. Children have access to enclosed outdoor play areas. The setting is open from 7.30am until 6.30pm each weekday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 71 children on roll within the early years age group. There are a small number of children attending who are learning English as an additional language. The nursery provide early education sessions for children aged three- and four-year-old. There are currently 11 staff working directly with children, including the provider. One member of staff holds an early years teacher status, one holds qualification at level 4, five hold a qualification at level 3 and two hold qualifications at level 2. One member of staff is working towards a foundation degree in early years and two staff are improving their qualifications. The nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association. The nursery has four pet ducks and a Labrador dog.

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