

Little Gems Montessori Preschool



The Clachan, Betts Way, Rectory Lane, Long Ditton, Surrey, KT6 5HT

Inspection date

6 May 2015

Previous inspection date

14 June 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

- Staff incorporate some elements of the forest schools approach, which means children regularly spend time in the woodlands where they learn about nature and how to manage risk. Staff challenge and actively involve children during activities. For example, they build shelters from sticks and leaves and make a nature picture out of the sticks and flowers collected during the walk.
- Staff invite and encourage children to participate in a children's committee. This means that children are fully involved in helping to suggest and choose new resources, and in the planning of activities.
- Children benefit from a welcoming and well-resourced environment. Staff and managers understand the learning and development requirements and have high expectations of children. This means that children are well prepared for the next stage of their learning, such as school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always reflect all children's individual cultural backgrounds in the learning environment. This does not further enhance their sense of belonging.
- Parents only have opportunities to share information about children's learning at home when they attend meetings. This means they are not able to fully participate in children's learning at all times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reflect the cultural and home backgrounds of children to fully promote their self-esteem
- strengthen partnerships with parents to enhance opportunities for them to share information about their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector reviewed a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector and manager participated in a joint observation.
- The inspector observed children both in and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff about safeguarding, supervision and induction.
- The inspector spoke to the manager about risk assessment.

Inspector

Genevieve Mackenzie

Inspection findings

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

Children are confident and independent learners. They access a wide range of resources both in and outdoors. For example, at the time of the inspection there was a table displaying the life cycle of a frog with a variety of learning resources, including some live tadpoles. This enhances children's understanding of life cycles and they were able to explain how tadpoles grow legs and turn into frogs. Activities like this enable children to develop a deeper understanding of what they are learning, while following their interests. Staff identify children with additional needs early and ensure that they receive the extra support they need to make good progress in their development. Communication and language development is a particular focus of the nursery. Staff have attended courses and use this knowledge to better support those with speech and language difficulties. Therefore, children make good progress with their speaking and listening skills.

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

Children are happy and settled. They form secure attachments as the nursery implements an effective key-person system. As a result, children know who to turn to if they need help or feel upset, which helps them feel safe and secure. Children's safety and welfare is central to everything the staff do. They have an excellent understanding of safeguarding concerns and implement comprehensive and extensive safeguarding policies. As a result, children are well protected. Staff complete daily risk assessments to ensure the safety of children. Staff help emotionally prepare children for their next stage of learning. For example, staff talk to children about their next school and provide the school with information on the children's achievements in order to fully support them.

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

Management has good recruitment and induction procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Management monitors and supervises staff well and staff have yearly appraisals and monthly meetings. Both are implemented to support staff, review and manage their performance and identify areas for further development and training. As a result, staff are well qualified and the quality of teaching is consistently good. Management reflects on practice by implementing an improvement plan that is informed by staff, parents' feedback, the children's committee suggestions and yearly audits. This ensures that they identify and improve any areas of weakness. The manager reviews policies frequently to ensure procedures remain up to date. This means staff and parents can access important information quickly to better protect children. Parents are happy with their children's progress and find staff positive and friendly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY401605
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	831111
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Gemma Louise Mustoe
Date of previous inspection	14 June 2010
Telephone number	02083988805

Little Gems Montessori Preschool registered in 2010. It is located in Long Ditton, Surrey. The group offers sessional care Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 12.30pm during school terms. There are some afternoon sessions that run until 3.30pm. The pre-school promotes aspects of the Montessori philosophy and forest school approach. Two members of staff hold degrees in early years education and three members of staff hold a Level 3 qualification. The pre-school receives early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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