

Little Acorns Nursery

Camelford Hall, Clease Road, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9PL



Inspection date

23 March 2015

Previous inspection date

20 April 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 know the children well and take effective steps to meet their individual needs. They conduct regular risk assessments and make suitable adjustments in the premises to create a safe environment for children. Staff work above minimum ratios, which enables them to provide children with good support and consistent supervision.
- Parents are happy with the nursery and give positive feedback at inspection. Parents contribute to their child's record of progress and have regular discussions with staff. Each child has a book bag to take home, which promotes their interest in reading and further involves parents in their learning.
- Clear observation, assessment and planning procedures enable staff to track children's progress and maintain individual development records. Documents show that children achieve skills as they work towards their next steps.
- The staff, committee and parents work well together to support children's care and education. The committee and staff reflect on their effectiveness well to devise clear action plans which result in ongoing improvements to their childcare provision.
- Staff communicate well with parents, agencies and other providers. They develop positive partnerships and share relevant information to promote children's welfare and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always organise group activities and the learning environment well enough to provide consistently effective challenges for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of group activities and use of the smaller play room to provide consistently effective learning opportunities and increase children's potential to concentrate.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children in their indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and parents.
- The inspector sampled children's development records and checked required documentation.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked safety and suitability of the premises and equipment.

Inspector

Julie Wright

Inspection findings

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

Children benefit from consistent routines and activities which promote their learning skills. For example, they select their name cards and gather for registration time. They sing songs, talk about the weather and count with staff. Show and Tell time promotes children's confidence and self-esteem because they are proud to take part. However, group activities are sometimes too large and too long for some children. Staff let children leave and join in at random which causes a distraction for others and lessens concentration. Staff do not use the smaller room to its full potential which results in higher noise levels at times in the main playroom. There is a good range of activities for children that promotes their interest, encourages them to play well and develops competence in the equipment they use. Staff interact positively with children to encourage and extend learning. They support children's communication and language development well.

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

There is an effective key-person system and familiar staff, which helps children to feel secure so they form attachments and friendships. Staff are attentive to children and reassure them which promotes children's emotional and social well-being. They teach children age-appropriate boundaries and expectations of behaviour. Children develop a sense of responsibility and show positive attitudes. For example, they help to look after the pet guinea pigs and learn to share toys with others. Staff frequently provide open access to the outdoor area which enables children to choose where they want to play. They use resources that promote continuity in their learning when outdoors. Staff take children to the park to look for creatures and explore the natural environment.

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

Staff act on advice from early years professionals, childcare organisations and training to develop their teaching skills. For example, they have increased their use of sign language and visual aids to enhance communication with children. Staff create and extend new and current play opportunities following courses. For instance, they have improved boys' interest in science, literacy and mathematical play. The majority of staff are working towards higher qualifications to support their development. The committee follows robust systems to monitor staff suitability and check that children are safe. All staff have paediatric first-aid training and a secure knowledge of the safeguarding procedures. This enables them to protect children's health and welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	102788
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	835659
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Little Acorns Nursery at Camelford Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2010
Telephone number	01840 212114

Little Acorns Nursery opened in 1980 and re-registered in 2006. It is a committee run group and operates from designated rooms in Camelford Hall. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm, during term time. It opens in some school holidays according to demand. There are seven members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives early education funding to provide free places for children aged two, three and four years.

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