

Little Bears Day Nursery

8 Martindale Road, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, BS22 8QE



Inspection date

26 May 2015

Previous inspection date

3 October 2011

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Outstanding | 1 |
| 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's behaviour in the nursery is positive; they treat each other with kindness and respect. Children share, take turns and sit beautifully during mealtimes.
- Staff are calm and kind to children; they comfort children when they are tired and help them when they have difficulty. Staff understand children's individual care needs and this means that children are confident and happy.
- Staff work well with outside agencies to promote learning for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to help them make rapid progress and close gaps.
- Staff develop effective partnerships with parents and the local primary school, sharing information to promote continuity in children's care and learning.
- Management has developed effective systems that track children's progress. This helps staff to tailor children's learning to their individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not use all opportunities to encourage children to solve problems and think for themselves to promote their creative skills and self-esteem.
- Occasionally, some staff do not maintain their sharp focus on challenging children's thinking during activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to solve problems and think for themselves to promote their creative skills and boost further their self-esteem
- make full use of activities to challenge children's thinking skills consistently to help all children make rapid progress their learning

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of staff's interactions with children during activities inside and outdoors.
- The inspector held two joint observations with the manager and a key person.
- The inspector spoke with parents to gain their views.
- The inspector sampled a variety of documentation including children's learning and development records.
- The inspector held a leadership and management discussion with the manager.

Inspector

Angela Cogan

Inspection findings

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

Children benefit from a good variety of learning experiences that enables them to make good progress. Children engage enthusiastically in their learning and are keen to learn more. For example, babies show high levels of concentration as they explore flour and learn about its properties, and toddlers find out about texture and colour by mixing paint with their hands. Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff promote children's mathematical skills as they encourage older children to count and calculate how many pieces of cutlery they need at lunchtime. Staff repeat and extend simple sentences to extend younger children's understanding and vocabulary. Staff ask useful questions and encourage older children to talk about their ideas, which promotes their language skills. Children make particularly good progress with their social and emotional development and staff expertly promote a culture where children learn to be kind and fair.

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

Children are confident, happy and feel safe. Staff respond to children's needs in good time and allow children to make decisions. For example, staff allowed babies to experiment moving up and down the slide, ensuring they were safe, while encouraging them to take risks. Staff work well with parents to understand children's care needs. Staff give children the comfort and routines they need to feel cared for and secure; for example children know where to go if they feel tired or thirsty. Children are encouraged to be independent and help at lunchtime. They eat well-balanced healthy food and staff encourage them to try everything on their plate. Children develop their social skills as they chat, listen to each other, wait for their meals and eat with care. This helps prepare them for school.

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

Management and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and know the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child or another adult. The manager uses regular supervision meetings to check the ongoing suitability of the team. Management works hard to foster a culture of improvement to promote further outcomes for children. Self-evaluation is successful and drives improvement; it encourages staff to make positive changes and identifies their training needs. Staff have recently received training on improving the quality of their observations to inform planning for children's next steps in learning. Staff feedback knowledge gained from external training during regular team meetings, which benefits children. Staff work effectively with other settings and have developed procedures to help children settle at school. The manager and staff have cultivated an environment where children and their parents are valued.

Setting details

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Unique reference number | EY362639 |
| Local authority | North Somerset |
| Inspection number | 827769 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 0 - 8 |
| Total number of places | 51 |
| Number of children on roll | 121 |
| Name of provider | Linda Mary Matthews |
| Date of previous inspection | 3 October 2011 |
| Telephone number | 01934 642 261 |

Little Bears Day Nursery established in 1991 and re-registered under the present ownership in 2007. It is a privately owned nursery situated in a residential area in Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset. It is open each weekday from 7.30am until 6pm for 52 weeks of the year, excluding bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The owner employs 17 members of staff to work directly with the children; of these, 16 staff hold a relevant early years qualification at Level 3. One member of staff holds an early years qualification at Level 5.

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