

Little Acorns Childcare

Overstone School, Church Street, Wing, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0NY



Inspection date

29 May 2015

Previous inspection date

16 May 2012

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 create a stimulating and attractive environment that promotes children's learning well across all areas. The manager has organised and equipped the nursery so children can confidently make choices and help themselves.
- Staff share learning with the children to help deepen their knowledge and understanding of ideas. They use skilful questioning to develop children's speaking and listening skills.
- The high-quality teaching and effective planning results in children of all ages making good progress. Older children are prepared well for their future move to school.
- The manager effectively monitors the nursery to ensure children's safety and welfare are closely managed.
- The nursery cook provides healthy options of well-prepared, balanced and nourishing meals and snacks which the children thoroughly enjoy.
- All staff model positive and caring relationships with parents, children and each other so children know the manners and attitudes expected of them.
- Parents' views are valued and this strengthens communication and promotes consistency in children's care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always build on children's interest in practical, routine tasks to extend their learning, such as encouraging them to consider pairs when tidying up their boots.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities that arise during routine activities, such as tidying up, to promote children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the baby, toddler and pre-school rooms and in the outside area.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of two activities with the manager.
- The inspector held regular discussions with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records including tracking charts and learning journals, alongside planning, policies, procedures and a range of other relevant documentation.

Inspector

Liz Kissane

Inspection findings

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

There is a good range of activities in the baby, toddler and pre-school rooms to stimulate all aspects of children's learning and development. For example, children in the baby room enjoy activities such as organising wooden bowls into one another, learning about shapes and sizes. Staff talk with them about the different textures of the objects so they learn new words. At breakfast, toddlers responsibly scoop cereal and pour their own milk. Pre-school children weigh ingredients for baking. All staff ask questions and guide, rather than tell children, encouraging them to think for themselves and become confident. Children enjoy reading with adults and, from a young age, start to show an understanding of how to handle books. In the toddler room children listen to letter sounds. In the pre-school room some use the computer to identify written letters. In the outside area, children develop language related to their heights, which are chalked on the wall. Staff make good use of recent training to support children's learning outdoors, focussing on the natural world. Parents appreciate regular discussions with staff about their child's progress.

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

Children learn to listen attentively to each other and to adults because staff model this well. Adults supervise and guide children in all personal activities. Children learn to wash their hands before baking and to wear appropriate clothing in different weathers. Children are able to rest when they are tired. They cooperate and take turns patiently in group sessions and at snack time because this is expected of them. Children thoroughly enjoy the freshly prepared meals that the cook provides. They see her at lunchtime and so they learn about different adult roles of staff. Children develop precision as they pour water, serve lasagne with a fish slice, and vegetables with a spoon. They are helped to succeed so are happy and confident learners, well prepared for their next steps in learning and move to school.

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

The manager visits other early years settings that are considered to offer outstanding provision to extend her expertise, which she shares with staff. She supervises staff and ensures they receive appropriate training. Staff work well with management and so the nursery has a good capacity to keep improving. All staff fully understand children's learning and development needs, and the child protection and safeguarding procedures. Children's welfare and safety are closely managed so they are safe from potential or actual harm. All age groups freely access suitable toys and books. Baby room care facilities are exceptionally good. Expert help is available from agencies or the children's centre to ensure that all children receive the individual care and support they need.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY441452
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1012345
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	87
Name of provider	Kids Activ8 Ltd
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2012
Telephone number	01296 682822

Little Acorns registered in 2012. It is located in Wing, Buckinghamshire. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6.30pm all year round. There are 22 staff employed to work directly with the children. Of these, two hold Early Years Professional Status and 14 hold relevant qualifications between level 2 and level 6. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four.

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