

Littleuns Day Nursery

Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS



Inspection date

29 May 2015

Previous inspection date

4 May 2011

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

- Children enjoy a varied range of resources and activities that are fun and motivating. As a result, they make good progress in their learning.
- Children benefit from positive relationships with staff, which help them feel safe and secure. They happily initiate conversations with staff and tell them about themselves. This helps staff to understand children as individuals.
- Safeguarding procedures are strong. Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children. This ensures that children's welfare is protected and children are kept safe from harm.
- The manager and staff establish good links with local schools. They invite teachers in to visit the children and effectively share information with them. This successfully supports children's move on to school.
- Staff form good partnerships with parents and other professionals. As a result, they meet and support children's individual needs and learning well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff lead children's self-chosen activities, which does not always support children to develop and use their own ideas.
- Staff do not make the best possible use of the outdoor area as they only use it at certain times, which means children do not always develop their play further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's opportunities to develop their own ideas to further extend their self-initiated learning
- review how the outdoor area is used, in particular to further support children who learn better outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery with the deputy manager.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the pre-school room and outdoor area.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at documentation including children's records, evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and a sample of policies.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

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

Staff observe children closely as they play and make individual learning plans that target children's next steps in learning. This helps to close any gaps in children's progress. Staff support children with additional needs well. They receive extra support and guidance from other professionals to help plan appropriate activities and set targets for individual children. Parents are kept informed about children's progress and receive regular feedback about their children's day. Children have access to a broad range of materials to support their early writing skills. For example, children enjoy making marks in the shaving foam. They have many opportunities to construct and build using a range of play resources, while learning about shape and size. Staff support children's communication and language development well. For example, staff and children use animals and role play people to create their own stories. In addition, this extends children's creativity and imagination skills.

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

Staff provide an attractive and welcoming environment and there are a good range of resources in all rooms. Children behave well as staff supervise children closely and offer gentle reminders about sharing and turn taking. They develop close relationships with their key person, which support children's feelings of confidence and emotional well-being. Staff successfully promote healthy lifestyles as children benefit from nutritious meals and snacks. They sit and eat with children at mealtimes, which promotes children's good social skills. Children develop their independence and self-help skills well as they choose their fruit snacks and pour their own drinks. Children have appropriate opportunities to be physically active outdoors, such as balancing beanbags on their heads.

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

Management and staff have a secure knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and effectively implement the legal requirements. Safe recruitment practices ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Management effectively evaluates the service and practice, such as what is working well and what needs to be improved. This includes the views of staff, children and parents. The manager follows secure induction processes and holds regular individual meetings with staff to support their professional development. Staff attend training to regularly update their knowledge, which helps them to promote good outcomes for all children. For example, the staff team recently attended training to support children's language communication skills. Management effectively tracks children's development to monitor all groups of children's progress securely. This helps them to understand the quality of the learning and development experiences children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY272996
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	847174
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Mrs Andrea Holmes and Mr Christopher Holmes Partnership
Date of previous inspection	4 May 2011
Telephone number	01634 244460

Littleuns Day Nursery registered in 2003. It operates from a purpose-built building in the grounds of Holmesdale Technical College in Snodland, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years old. The provider employs 13 members of staff; of these 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff has Early Years Professional Status.

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