

Little Scribblers LTD

21st Bath Scout Site, Charlcombe Lane, Bath, BA1 6NS



Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

14 August 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 make good progress in their development. Teaching is good. There are lots of interesting activities on offer to help children learn and enjoy themselves.
- The environment is planned well. Children have plenty of opportunity to explore the outdoors and play with good quality toys inside and out.
- Parents are valued partners. They receive frequent updates about what their children do and how they are getting on. Staff take account of their views when making improvements.
- Staff are good humoured. There is a cheerful and happy atmosphere at the nursery which helps put children at ease.
- Children behave well and there are very few upsets during the nursery day. Staff model kind attitudes and behaviour which children then copy.
- Leaders effectively check that the nursery helps children to learn, develop and be safe. These systems of monitoring are well-established. Prompt action is taken to address any aspects that need improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not plan group activities with the needs of all children in mind. Some sessions go on for too long and children begin to lose interest. This leads to some children not learning as much as they could.
- Leaders do not give staff enough support to improve the quality of their teaching. They discuss practice with staff but there is no established system in place.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review how group activities are planned and delivered so that every session makes the most of all learning opportunities and helps children make as much progress as possible in their learning and development
- enhance systems used to monitor and improve the quality of teaching so children receive the highest quality learning experiences throughout each day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children during their play in the indoor and outdoor areas and in the large hall.
- The inspector spoke with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector spoke with both managers about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector reviewed a range of documentation including children's records, staff records, policies and procedures, and planning for training and improvement.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.

Inspector

Susan Mann HMI

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 enthusiastic learners at Little Scribblers. They make good use of the exciting environment both indoors and outside. Most have levels of ability that are typical for their age. They develop useful problem solving skills because staff encourage them to 'find out how' and work things out for themselves. Children gain a good understanding of letter sounds because of skilful teaching. Staff place high emphasis on reading stories and children are developing a love of books as a result. All children, even the youngest, demonstrate good listening skills. They pay attention to what adults are saying and follow the rules of games such as the 'traffic light game'. Such skills help children be ready for school or the next stage of their education. Staff know their key children well. Regular observations are used effectively to check what each child can do and to set targets for their next steps. Staff use this information, together with information about what children do at home, to plan and provide good quality activities. Thus all children make good progress at their own pace doing activities they enjoy. There is a balanced mixture of play opportunities and sessions led by adults. On occasion, adult-led sessions are not planned as well as the rest of the nursery day. Some children do not join in and others lose interest because the session is too long.

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

Children's emotional development is given high priority by all staff. Children show great fondness for staff. They cuddle up to staff when reading a story and are eager to talk to them about what they are doing or share news from home. Staff are quick to reassure children when they appear unhappy or worried. There are lots of good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. The exciting outdoor environment provides the chance for children to balance, climb and run around in a safe and natural setting. Cooked lunches give children the energy they need for the rest of the nursery day.

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

Leaders are knowledgeable about early years practice. They have an accurate picture of what the nursery does well and what it needs to improve. They review the quality of learning opportunities and observations and ensure that children are helped to reach their next steps in their learning. Leaders keep a close eye on whether individual children are making less progress than others, and also on whether some groups of children, such as boys or girls, do less well. They take effective steps to address any gaps that may appear to help each child reach their full learning potential. Leaders encourage staff to attend training and give them appropriate support. However, they do not make regular observations on the quality of staff teaching, nor do they give regular feedback on this part of staff performance. This hinders the development of even better teaching practice in the nursery. Staff help to keep children safe. They know the correct procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child's welfare. They make detailed checks of the nursery each day to provide safe and welcoming premises.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY332969
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	1008571
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Little Scribblers Ltd
Date of previous inspection	14 August 2014
Telephone number	07747 081626

Little Scribblers Ltd registered in 2006 and is located in a Scout hut within the city of Bath. The nursery is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7.45am until 5.30pm and on Fridays from 7.45am until 4.30pm all year round. The nursery also offers after-school and holiday care for children up to the age of eight years. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are six members of staff. One member of staff has Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status. Two members of staff are qualified at degree level, two are qualified at level 3 and one is qualified at level 2.

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