

Little Acorns Day Nursery Ltd

Cooks Lane, Kingstone, Hereford, HR2 9EY



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

29 May 2015

3 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching and staff's interaction with children is outstanding. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of children and how they learn, which ensures they are able to extensively promote children's development across all areas of learning.
- Activities are relevant and extremely rewarding, promoting children's imaginations and excitement for learning. Children become highly skilled, confident and articulate learners, who are gaining all the necessary skills they require for starting school.
- Children are very happy and emotionally secure in the nursery because staff obtain detailed information from parents about each child's well-being and needs.
- The safeguarding arrangements in the nursery are excellent. All staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibility to protect children and to keep them safe. Staff regularly refresh their knowledge, so that they are informed about up-to-date procedures to report concerns.
- Very strong relationships have been developed with parents and information is shared in various ways. This ensures that there is continuity in children's learning between home and the nursery.
- High-quality professional development and training for staff, and consistent reviews of their practice, means that children continue to receive excellent learning experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise opportunities to engage even greater parental involvement in children's learning, to build on their already rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff engaging with children in a range of indoor and outdoor learning activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a selection of policies and procedures and children's learning records. She also checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers, who were spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Amanda Tompkin

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their excellent knowledge of how children learn, and their expertise in teaching, to provide an outstanding range of learning opportunities. As a result, children make very rapid progress in their learning and are acquiring the skills they need to help to prepare them for their move to school. Children are enthusiastic, excited learners and they benefit from the stimulating environments, both indoors and outdoors. Staff successfully extend children's self-initiated play. For example, when children observe that some of the ride-on toys and bicycles are being ridden too quickly in the garden, staff successfully engage them in solving the problem. Staff support children well and, when they decide to make traffic signals, help them to find suitable resources for the task. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language are supported extremely well. Staff use extremely effective teaching methods, such as the use of sign language, pictures and visual prompts.

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

Children's well-being is promoted exceedingly well in the friendly and welcoming nursery. Children's moves to new rooms and to school are tailored to meet their individual needs and the needs of their parents. Children are, therefore, emotionally secure and adapt very well to the changes. Staff are extremely good role models and play alongside children, helping them to understand how to take turns and share. This helps children to form strong friendships with others and to quickly understand what acceptable behaviour is. Children are frequently praised for their efforts and achievements. This helps them to gain confidence and develop self-esteem. Children are provided with healthy, well-balanced diets and are successfully encouraged to use good hygiene routines. Their physical development is supported well, as they have regular access to the well-resourced, outdoor environments. Babies are extremely happy in the nursery, as staff are kind, caring and respond superbly to their individual needs.

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

The leadership and management team demonstrate an excellent understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is evident that the well-qualified team are extremely committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all children. All staff have an exceptional understanding of the procedures to follow to protect children in their care. Rigorous recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are followed to ensure that staff are suitable for their roles. Monitoring of children's learning and development is accurate and precise. As a result, any gaps in learning can be identified and closed. The nursery effectively uses various methods to share information about children's progress. As a result, children's care, learning and development is complemented exceptionally well. The management are extremely proud of the excellent partnerships they have forged with parents. They value them as active partners and are keen to develop further inspirational ways of involving them in their children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY104025
Local authority	Herefordshire
Inspection number	848144
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	84
Name of provider	Little Acorns Day Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	3 August 2009
Telephone number	01981 250 714

Little Acorns Day Nursery Ltd was registered in 2002. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one with Early Years Professional status and one with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens all year round from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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