

Acorns Day Nursery

174 Brooklands Road, SALE, Cheshire, M33 3RA



Inspection date

15 June 2015

Previous inspection date

8 September 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

- During circle time in the pre-school room, staff skilfully support children to discuss how they are feeling. Children respectfully listen to and value each other.
- Daily updates ensure parents are well informed about their child's time in the nursery, and their developmental progress.
- Children quickly form secure attachments with staff. This is as a result of a good settling-in process involving parents.
- Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. They access relevant training. This is supported by a range of robust policies and procedures. As a result, children are extremely well safeguarded.
- Qualified staff use good quality teaching skills. This supports children to progress well with their learning and development.
- All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points in their learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers do not precisely monitor the quality of staff teaching practice to raise teaching to the highest level, or provide opportunities for staff to share good practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the methods for observing and sharing good teaching practice to ensure all children are consistently provided with high-quality learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outside learning environments and spoke with staff and children.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at documents and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and the provider's evidence of self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of parents' views and comments.

Inspector

Kim Boughey

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children learn. Staff provide a good range of adult-led and child-initiated play and learning opportunities, which support children to develop skills to prepare them for school. For example, they skilfully follow children's interest in the large dice, by providing a small-group activity to extend learning in mathematics. This involves children in the pre-school room taking turns to count and add up the spots and numbers. Babies are quickly developing their physical skills as staff follow their interest when playing outdoors. Staff encourage them to make marks in the sand and on the floor, using fingers, tools and chinks. Staff effectively support children in developing good communication and language skills as they discuss where vegetables come from. Robust observations and assessments of children's learning and development clearly identify next steps, which feed into planning.

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

Staff are warm and welcoming, therefore, children quickly settle. An effective key-person system ensures that staff support children's emotional well-being. Children are well cared for. During lunchtime children wash and dry their own hands, set the table, and confidently serve themselves food and drinks. Children enthusiastically explore the indoor and outdoor learning environments. They access a good range of challenging and stimulating resources, such as balancing beams, bicycles, and a digging and growing area. Children's physical development is well promoted and staff teach them about healthy lifestyles. Children are learning about the importance of keeping themselves healthy and safe through visits from specialist services, such as, the dentist, doctor and fire officers. Children tidy up to help keep the environment safe and free from trip hazards.

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

Staff are effectively supported with their continuous professional development. Letters and sounds training has resulted in the provision of a high-quality, language-rich environment. This further promotes children's communication and language development. However, opportunities for all staff to share their good teaching practice are not yet fully embedded. Managers effectively track cohorts of children to identify gaps in their learning and development. For example, analysis of information showed that babies were not making good progress in some areas relating to self-care and self-awareness skills. A robust action plan to support babies is now in place. An effective self-evaluation process involving children and parents clearly identifies strengths and areas for improvement. For example, following visits to the park with parents, children say they want more resources to help them learn to balance. Children are well supported when they move on to the next stage in their learning. This is due to effective partnerships with parents, schools and specialist services.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY420333
Local authority	Trafford
Inspection number	852088
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Christine & Christopher Cambridge Partnership
Date of previous inspection	8 September 2011
Telephone number	0161 973 9199

The Acorns Day Nursery was registered in 2010. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language, and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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