

Little Stars Nursery

2a Devonshire Road, GRAVESEND, Kent, DA12 5AA



Inspection date

6 July 2015

Previous inspection date

18 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is inconsistent. Staff's understanding of how to obtain information about children's starting points and monitor their ongoing progress is variable. Newly established systems for assessing children's development are not always accurate or yet measurable. Therefore, planned activities do not consistently build on what individual children already know and can do.
- Staff interactions with children are variable. Some staff supervise children while they play rather than extending children's chosen play experiences.
- Staff do not always offer children clear and consistent messages regarding their unwanted behaviour. This does not enable them to always learn the behaviour expectations of the nursery.
- Parents do not always receive accurate information regarding their children's learning and development in order to effectively support their learning at home.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are warm and caring and children form secure relationships with them. Young children learn to manage their behaviour and share toys by following the example set by staff.
- Staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection, and have a good understanding of how to recognise signs which may give rise to concerns. This strengthens their knowledge of child protection and protects children's welfare.
- Recruitment procedures are thorough and the manager monitors the ongoing suitability of staff. Therefore, staff are suitable to work alongside children and procedures ensure they continue to be so.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the use of assessment to accurately identify and plan for children's learning needs to help them make good progress
- improve staff interactions with children so that staff are consistently using a range of teaching strategies to extend children's learning
- ensure that parents contribute to children's starting points and receive accurate and up-to-date information regarding their child's progress in order for them to guide their learning at home.

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

- improve children's understanding of the behaviour expectations of the nursery, for example, by making sure they receive clear and consistent messages regarding any unwanted behaviour.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and learning in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff members.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including policies, children's learning records and improvement plans.
- The inspector took account of parents' views.

Inspector

Zalihe Mehmet-Emin

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable. While some staff skilfully interact with children, challenging and extending their learning, others do not. For example, during outdoor play activities, some staff talk to children about what they are doing and ask questions to support their communication and language. However, some staff simply supervise children's play rather than engaging with them to extend their learning. The manager and staff have implemented new systems for observing and planning for children's individual needs. This helps staff to provide experiences for children that cover all areas of learning. However, there are inconsistencies in how well staff assess children's progress and plan for their individual learning. Consequently, some children do not make good enough progress in their learning. Staff communicate regularly with parents. However, parents of the younger children do not consistently receive accurate and in-depth information about their child's progress check. This does not fully support their child's learning at home.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff provide a welcoming environment where children settle quickly. An effective key-person system ensures that staff effectively promote children's personal, social and emotional development. Children are encouraged to take part in activities that help them learn how to share resources and take turns. However, when older children display occasional unwanted behaviour, staff do not always offer children consistent messages regarding what is acceptable. This slightly hinders children's understanding of what behaviour staff expect of them. Children become confident and independent by learning to do things for themselves, such as cutting up fruits and vegetables or pouring their own drinks. As a result, children develop essential skills to equip them well for their future learning and for their move to school. Children enjoy daily opportunities to explore and investigate in the outdoor environment. As a result, staff support children to learn about healthy lifestyles and to develop their physical skills.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager is keen to improve the nursery and has begun to implement actions to raise standards. She has a clear understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She is beginning to use self-evaluation to review practice and plans to extend this by seeking the views of parents and staff. Regular supervisions and meetings with staff help to identify areas for improvement, training needs and to set appropriate targets. For instance, the manager reports that following training, staff are developing their knowledge of how to effectively plan and assess children's development. However, the implemented changes are new and, therefore, the manager is not yet able to effectively monitor the impact this has on the outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY331503
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1007400
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Leiza Veronica Tuitt
Date of previous inspection	18 February 2015
Telephone number	01474 354720

Little Stars Nursery registered in 2006 and is located in Gravesend, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am to 7pm for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery employs eight staff. The nursery manager holds a National Vocational Qualification at level 4. Seven other staff have relevant qualifications. One apprentice is currently working towards a level 3 qualification. The nursery receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

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