

Lime Tree @ Loughborough

Great Central Hotel, Great Central Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leicestershire, LE11 1RW



Inspection date

16 July 2015

Previous inspection date

18 May 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
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

- Staff take account of children's individual needs and interests to an exceptional degree. They plan very exciting and stimulating activities in a vibrant and enabling environment. A wealth of exciting resources enables children to make independent choices in their play. They are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- There is excellent communication and sharing of information with parents about children's needs and progress. Observations and assessments of children's progress are very precise so that staff ensure their high-quality teaching is specifically targeted. Children make rapid progress in all areas of learning.
- Children are very happy and settled in the friendly, welcoming environment of the nursery. Healthy eating is promoted particularly well and all children's needs are extremely well met so that they are emotionally secure.
- Children are extremely safe, as they are very well supervised at all times and staff understand and implement meticulous policies for safeguarding.
- Leadership and management is extremely dynamic and truly inspirational. The highly motivated staff work as a very strong team to monitor and evaluate their provision very effectively. The monitoring of staff's practice and children's progress is extremely innovative, well documented and thorough.
- The nursery has initiated strong links with other early years providers in the local area. Staff share ideas and best practice and work closely with other professionals so that children's learning experiences continually improve. The management team has a very clear plan of how to improve the exceptionally high-quality provision even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend the excellent support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager, the deputy manager and both owners. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

Inspection findings

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

The nursery environment is planned exceptionally well with children's individual needs in mind. Babies love to explore the animal pictures hidden in the sand tray. They study them intently and enjoy the feel of the sand as they look for more. Two- and three-year-old children have a wonderful time as they play with farm animals and toy vehicles in yellow mashed potato and blue hair gel. They wheel cars through the mixture and are thrilled to discover that it turns green. They take their learning in a new direction when they decide to wash the car wheels in soapy water. Staff evaluate the activity very effectively. They plan how they will extend children's learning by using other colours and by providing bowls of water at the beginning of the activity. Pre-school children are extremely well challenged in their thinking as they work out how to weave lengths of fabric into a frame. Children who speak English as an additional language and who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are exceptionally well supported. Staff work with parents and other professionals to develop extremely effective individual ways to help children make rapid progress in their learning and development. Staff have identified that they wish to extend this further in order to enhance the provision for children who need extra support in the future.

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

Staff ensure children settle quickly at the nursery and are emotionally secure. They comfort them if they are upset and display pictures of children's families in their rooms, which helps them to settle. Parents' needs are fully supported during children's settling-in times, which means children adjust more quickly to their new surroundings. Children's moves to new rooms and to school are also tailored to meet the individual needs of parents and children. Children's behaviour is excellent. They are given confidence through frequent praise and encouragement and they really enjoy their time at nursery. Staff teach children to manage their care routines and to gain independence so that they build this up gradually in readiness for school. Children develop their physical skills exceptionally well through their use of wheeled toys and climbing and balancing equipment. Movement and yoga sessions help them to relax and to keep fit.

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

The infectious enthusiasm of the management team and staff means that children's learning experiences are continually evolving and improving. There are increasing opportunities for parents' involvement in children's learning. The ongoing drive for improvement is highly effective and well organised. Specifically targeted staff training and mentoring means that the excellent practice continually improves. This means children's learning experiences are of an exceptionally high quality. Staff are extremely well supported by the management team in order to shape their own professional development. The development and use of a highly innovative staff handbook means outstanding practice is achieved and sustained.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY435098
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	874629
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	85
Number of children on roll	188
Name of provider	KGAM Ltd
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2012
Telephone number	01509414868

Lime Tree @ Loughborough is privately owned by KGAM Limited and was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 27 members of childcare staff, all but four of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2 to 6. One owner holds Qualified Teacher Status and the other holds a degree in education. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. It uses elements of the Te Whariki curriculum. 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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