

Little Acorns Pre-School

The Village Hall, Westmore Green, Tatsfield, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2AG



Inspection date	19 November 2015
Previous inspection date	21 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The pre-school works effectively with parents and other agencies to ensure that children's care needs are met and that parents are involved in their children's learning.
- Good-quality teaching skills are used by pre-school staff to extend children's thinking and promote next steps in their learning. Children are happy, settled and make good progress.
- Staff lead by example in promoting children's positive behaviour. Children understand the expectations of them and their behaviour is good.
- The pre-school has good links with the local school, helping to prepare children well for their future move. For example, they take children on visits and discuss children's progress with the Reception Year teacher.
- Effective self-evaluation helps managers to accurately identify areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to encourage children to consider writing for different purposes during their play and activities.
- Although children are well supported to mix with others, they do not receive the best possible opportunities to learn about the lives of people and communities beyond their experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to practise writing
- extend further the support for children to learn about and understand different family backgrounds and communities beyond their immediate experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing inside and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with staff, parents and children.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled documents, such as policies, records and suitability checks.
- The inspector spoke to parents and read testimonials to gain their views.

Inspector

Eve Lumb

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The leadership team has a good understanding of its responsibilities and has effective systems to monitor staff practice and children's progress. Safeguarding is effective. Recruitment processes are robust and staff know how to keep children safe and report any concerns. Leaders and managers are accurate in identifying areas for improvement and take into account the views of children, parents and staff. Staff work effectively in partnerships with parents and external agencies to meet children's individual needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff carry out regular observations and assessments in order to plan for children's learning. Where gaps in achievement are identified, staff work effectively to provide suitable activities for children to help develop their skills. Children develop good communication and language skills. For example, they join in with storytelling, rhymes and songs. Mathematical language is part of children's play. For example, staff and children talk about shapes, sizes and numbers when building towers and during art activities. Staff support children to expand their thinking skills. They use a range of methods, including asking questions, to encourage children to think about how and why things happen.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The environment is planned to meet the needs of all children. Staff provide a range of resources and activities to promote learning in all areas. Children are able to explore these resources in a welcoming environment, supported by responsive and caring key staff. Children are able to take carefully managed risks; for example, they enjoy jumping from a low-level beam during physical play. Children's confidence grows as they practise new skills. Staff promote good behaviour at all times; for example, they praise children for their efforts and for making healthy choices.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make at least typical progress from their starting points. Where gaps in learning are identified, staff take steps to move children forward and seek support where needed. Children's confidence is supported by staff's use of praise and by extending children's understanding. Children are ready to learn and are prepared well for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	122751
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	846231
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Little Acorns Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 June 2011
Telephone number	01959 540775

Little Acorns Pre-School registered in 1992. It is based in Tatsfield, Kent. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday, during school term times with sessions from 9am to 12 noon. There are also afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 3pm. The setting also offers a breakfast club for pre-school children and those attending the neighbouring school, operating from 7.15am to 9am. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are nine members of staff; of whom, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

