

Little Stars at the Oaks

The Oaks Child and Family Centre, St Peters Church, Richmond Street, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 0SJ



Inspection date	17 December 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager and staff know the children very well. Staff plan a wide range of interesting and challenging play opportunities and activities, to support children's next steps in their learning. All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points.
- Relationships with other agencies involved in children's learning and care are firmly established. Children's educational and care needs are effectively met and they are supported in their ongoing development.
- The key-person system is very well established and fosters very good partnerships with parents. Children form secure attachments and there is a shared approach to ensuring their learning, development and well-being are maintained.
- Self-evaluation is carried out regularly and includes the views of staff, parents and the children. The manager and staff have a clear vision for the nursery. Action plans highlight areas they would like to improve.
- Children actively explore the vibrant learning environments and make independent choices as they play. Children enjoy their time at the nursery and are developing good social skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager has not yet fully evaluated the progress made by different groups of children.
- Sometimes, staff do not give children enough opportunity to do things for themselves during activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- evaluate the progress made by different groups of children and use the information gained to ensure that any identified gaps in their learning are quickly closed
- increase opportunities for children to have a go during activities and do things for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation, policies and procedures 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

Donna Birch

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff recruitment procedures and ongoing suitability checks are in place. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. The manager records all children's progress and staff work hard to ensure that all children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs and children with English as an additional language, are welcomed into the nursery and supported. The manager works directly in the rooms with children. This helps her to actively support staff in improving their personal effectiveness and teaching skills. Staff are also supported through regular supervision and targeted reviews. Training is well supported and helps staff extend their teaching expertise and improve outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and staff demonstrate a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Each child has an individual learning journal record which includes examples of their work and observations of their learning and interests. Staff plan a wide range of challenging and enjoyable experiences for children. Children show good levels of curiosity and confidence and are gaining the key skills to be ready for the next steps in their learning and school. Disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language are very well supported. Activities are tailored to suit their needs and appropriate individual learning plans are in place, to help them make the best possible progress. Staff use effective teaching skills to help support children's communication and language development and they encourage them to talk about their ideas when involved in activities. For instance, when reading a story, they ask children to make predictions about the story and recall events from their own lives.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are valued and made to feel welcome. This is reflected in their high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Settle-in sessions ensure that there is a smooth move from home to the nursery. Children have many opportunities to develop their understanding of adopting a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy a wide range of fruits and vegetables as snacks. Children display good levels of independence and help organise the table for snack and pour their own drinks. Children develop their physical skills as they play games in the outdoors with staff. Staff use calm and consistent messages with children. This, together with reminders to share and take turns, reinforce children's understanding of acceptable behaviour and how to keep themselves safe.

Outcomes for children are good

Outcomes for children are good and they are well supported by staff. Overall, observation, assessment and planning is timely, accurate and used effectively to help children make consistently good progress. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482812
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	996971
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Sure Start Hyndburn
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01254 879387

Little Stars at the Oaks was registered in 2014. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 to 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon and 1pm to 4pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

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