

Mini Explorers Play School Ltd

Sence Valley Forest Park, IBSTOCK, Leicestershire, LE67 6NW



Inspection date

11 January 2016

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

- Staff interact enthusiastically in children's play and provide praise and encouragement. Children are happy and settled and have formed strong attachments with their key persons.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff offer a broad range of activities which covers all areas of learning. Children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff plan daily trips to the local forest. The trips are used successfully for a range of play and learning activities and to ensure that children are physically active.
- Children's achievements are shared with their parents. Parents speak highly of the pre-school. They value the friendly and caring staff team.
- Relationships with the schools that children move on to are well established. Staff use these links to help them prepare children well for starting school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not give children sufficient time to think and respond to questions and discussions.
- Procedures for the supervision of staff are in their infancy. Consequently, the management team has not fully identified all strengths and weaknesses in practice to raise the quality of teaching even higher.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children the time they need to think about and respond to the questions staff ask
- strengthen supervision procedures and identify ways to promote staff's teaching and performance further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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 pre-school manager.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation, policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the pre-school.

Inspector

Teresa Lester

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are clear on what to do if they have any concerns about a child. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They successfully implement all requirements. The manager and staff work extremely well together. They regularly review and evaluate their practice and show a positive attitude to making improvements. Staff attend training to keep their knowledge up to date and refresh their skills. Parental involvement in their children's learning is highly valued and well promoted. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress. They contribute information about what their children are achieving at home. Staff provide parents with activities they can do at home to further support children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is good. Staff plan activities based on children's current interests and their next steps in learning. The manager carefully checks on children's progress. She makes good use of this information to identify how to close any gaps in learning. She regularly ensures that the assessments of children's progress are accurate and that staff identify relevant support to help them to move forward in their learning. Children develop their understanding of numbers as they play. Children excitedly count backwards from 10 as they prepare their rocket for launch. Children have opportunities during the day to learn about colour and shape, write their names and listen to stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Resources are stored, so that children are able to choose and select them for themselves and make decisions about their play. Children's good health is well promoted. Children prepare their own healthy snacks and enjoy fresh air on a daily basis. Staff encourage children to put on their own boots, coats and waterproof clothing. Consequently, children develop their independence. Children are effectively taught how to keep themselves safe, for example, when they are on daily trips to the forest. Staff remind children how to cross the road, climb and use tools safely. Staff model good manners and encourage positive behaviour. Children behave well. Staff provide clear and consistent messages about their expectations. Children gain a good understanding of differences in society. They enjoy activities that help them learn about different cultures, traditions and beliefs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress based on their starting points. They are developing positive attitudes towards learning. Children learn to be independent and are taught to share and take turns. They develop early literacy and mathematical skills. Children are well prepared for their next stage of learning or the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY486615
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1012848
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Mini Explorers Play School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01530 263062

Mini Explorers Play School Ltd was registered in 2015. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds Qualified Teacher Status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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