

Little Acorns Day Nursery

Valley House, Towngate, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 9JG



Inspection date

12 January 2016

Previous inspection date

23 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Leaders and managers are driving significant improvements in the nursery. They closely scrutinise practice and develop detailed actions plans. Staff work well together and actions taken to improve the quality of provision are well planned and effective.
- Professional development is now precisely focused to help staff improve their knowledge, understanding and practice. Through effective systems for supervision and performance management, staff are monitored regularly and underperformance is being tackled. As a result, the quality of teaching is improving.
- Staff make good use of the outdoor area to extend the learning opportunities for children. Children show their excitement as they explore the natural environment, build with large construction materials and experience the sounds around them.
- Staff make regular assessments of children's learning. These are monitored by leaders to ensure they are accurate. Staff now use the information they gather to effectively plan suitably challenging activities for children.
- The key-person system works effectively to engage parents in their children's learning. There is a consistent two-way flow of information between parents and the key person. Parents help staff identify children's starting points. They are kept well informed about their children's progress and are involved in planning for future learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always support children effectively to develop their vocabulary. They do not always make good enough use of opportunities to introduce children to new words.
- Staff do not always give children enough opportunities to make connections in their learning. They do not make enough time for children to think about and discuss their learning, knowledge and ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children more consistent support to develop their vocabulary
- give children the time and opportunities they need to think about and make connections in their learning.

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 joint observations with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and the provider. She looked at relevant documentation, including the 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

Nicola Dickinson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Policies and procedures are implemented successfully. Staff complete appropriate risk assessments to help maintain children's safety. The identification of visitors is checked and the premises are kept secure. Leaders carefully consider the deployment of staff, taking account of their qualifications, skills and experience. Qualified staff are improving their teaching skills through focused coaching and mentoring. The physical environments are well organised both inside and outside to meet the needs of children of different ages. Leaders have worked exceptionally hard to help staff evaluate their own practice. Weaknesses are identified and swiftly addressed through concerted and effective action. Leaders have implemented well-focused improvement plans through engagement with staff, children and parents. This has resulted in significant improvements in the nursery's practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of the age group they are working with. Parents are involved in initial assessments of children's skills. This means key persons know what children can already do when they enter the nursery. Assessments are now used well by staff to inform learning programmes. Children enjoy a wide range of experiences that take into account their interests and abilities. They are challenged and motivated to learn. Children who are slower in making progress receive additional support to ensure gaps are narrowing. Staff in the pre-school room recognise when to challenge more-able children further. A focus on developing early mathematical and literacy skills has helped to make sure children are well prepared for their learning in school. The nursery has worked hard to improve engagement with parents. Information about children's learning and development is regularly shared, so that parents can continue their learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

An effective key-person system helps children to form secure relationships when they enter the nursery. Staff caring for babies are loving and attentive, helping them to settle easily. Staff help children to become confident and self-aware. Children develop their independence as they explore their surroundings. Staff provide clear guidance for children about what is and is not acceptable behaviour. Children learn to share and take turns. They listen to each other during activities. They are keen to help each other. As a result, children make strong friendships. Staff make good use of the outdoor area to promote children's learning. Children develop their physical skills and take managed risks as they use play equipment to climb and balance. Children develop their knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy. They enjoy the healthy, well-balanced meals provided by the nursery cook.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for their future learning in school. They are confident to make choices and initiate their own learning. Children learn about their community and the wider world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362250
Local authority	Kirklees
Inspection number	1029653
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	Little Acorns Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2015
Telephone number	01924 499210

Little Acorns Day Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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