

Little Acorns Shireoaks

Brancliffe Lane, Shireoaks, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S81 8PW



Inspection date

16 December 2015

Previous inspection date

3 November 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Inadequate	4

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Children are not kept safe, because the provider has failed to notify Ofsted of changes to the committee members. Ofsted has been unable to carry out the necessary checks to determine their suitability to be a childcare provider.
- Attendance records are not adequately completed to clearly show the arrival and departure times for children.
- Staff do not always keep an accurate written record of all accidents that take place whilst children are in their care.
- Assessments of children's progress are not always frequent enough or accurate. Teaching is not well matched to children's needs, to help them to make progress relevant to their individual abilities.
- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language during their play.

It has the following strengths

- The pre-school has built positive relationships with parents and other professionals. Parents praise the good quality environment of the pre-school and the resources that are available to children.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to be creative through organised activities and by choosing to use the various craft materials available to them.
- Children enjoy their time at the pre-school. They are settled and happy and build good relationships with their key person.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure there is an effective daily record of attendance which clearly shows children's hours of attendance 	31/01/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ keep a written record each time a child has an accident and share this with the child's parent or guardian 	31/01/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that assessments are sufficiently rigorous to identify children's progress from their starting points, so that staff understand children's needs and can plan activities to shape their learning so that they make good progress 	31/01/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ provide opportunities for all children who speak English as an additional language to develop and use their home language in their play. 	31/01/2016

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and also took account of the written views of parents provided on the day of inspection.

Inspector
Josie Mapes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. The provider has failed to share information with Ofsted about changes to the committee. This means that Ofsted has not been able to carry out the necessary checks to establish their suitability. Staff do not keep clear records of children's attendance, including times at which they arrive and depart. Accident records are not always filled in consistently. Sometimes parents and guardians are not informed of accidents which have happened to their children during the day. However, staff are fully aware of their responsibility to report any concerns about children's well-being and are confident in their ability to recognise child protection issues. Staff have opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding through attending training courses. This helps staff to broadly support children in their learning as they play with them. The manager and staff reflect on their practice, and include the views of parents and children in their plans for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Assessments of children's progress are not consistently completed or accurate. Some children on roll have not had their progress assessed at all and their key person cannot accurately discuss their age and stage of development, or their planned next steps in learning. Assessments are not used well to understand children's needs and plan appropriate experiences to support their learning and development. The quality of teaching and learning for children differs across the pre-school. Teaching for some older children is good. They listen carefully to a story about animals. They all choose an animal to hold and are able to participate actively in the story by holding up their animal at the appropriate point. Staff introduce and explain new vocabulary such as 'miserable' and 'cold'. However, staff do not always plan appropriate experiences to support all children's learning and development. For example, they do not provide opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language in their play. This means their communication skills are not fully supported and limits the progress these children make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

People in a position to influence decisions that affect children's safety and well-being have not had their suitability verified. This puts children's well-being and welfare at risk. However, the pre-school is a warm and welcoming environment for children. Children freely choose from a wide range of resources and activities available to them. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise as they play outdoors on bikes and scooters. Partnerships with schools have been developed. Information is exchanged when children move on, helping to promote consistency in care and learning. Children's behaviour is generally good. Staff sensitively explain their expectations. Children readily share and play alongside each other. Staff teach children good hygiene routines. Staff deploy themselves generally well and supervise children as they play.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

A lack of understanding of children's individual needs, poor-quality assessment and variations in the quality of teaching have a negative impact on children's learning. Some children do make some progress towards their early learning goals. However, not all children are prepared well enough for starting school. Children who speak English as an additional language are not making the progress typically expected for their age or from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253063
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	854813
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	26
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Little Acorns Shireoaks Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 November 2010
Telephone number	01909 506666

Little Acorns Shireoaks was registered in 1984. The pre-school employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one at level 5. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, term time only from 8.55am to 3.10pm.

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