

Inspection date	19 January 2016
Previous inspection date	24 April 2012

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The highly motivated management team strives to maintain outstanding practice. They regularly seek the views of children, parents and staff to set priorities and promote ongoing improvement.
- Parents and other professionals give high praise for the staff. They state that staff are extremely caring and supportive and do their utmost to meet the needs of children and their families.
- Staff use a range of highly effective methods to involve parents in their children's progress. They provide excellent ideas for activities for parents to continue children's learning at home.
- Children's physical and emotional well-being is supported incredibly well. Staff use a range of highly effective strategies to promote their confidence, self-esteem and independence skills.
- All children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs, are motivated and eager to play and learn. They are supported exceptionally well to develop the skills and attitudes to help them to be prepared well for school. Children make excellent progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise opportunities for children to find out about the diverse cultures and religions in the community and wider world.

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 deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision. She looked at a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures and the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She held meetings with the manager and deputy manager.

Inspector

Cath Palser

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The highly driven management team constantly evaluates the service provided and identifies innovative ways to improve. The team has identified further opportunities for children to learn about their community and the wider world. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of their role in safeguarding children. They know the procedures to follow should they be concerned about the welfare or safety of a child. There is a strong emphasis on promoting the quality of teaching and learning. The management team uses a targeted programme of monitoring, supervision and training. This has a positive impact on staff professional development. For example, staff have a superb understanding of the importance of outdoor play. They are highly effective at supporting children to develop a growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy. Funding provided is used extremely well to meet the needs of children and support their learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know the children extremely well and are highly effective in tuning into their interests and curiosity. Staff use a range of superb teaching strategies to support children's language and communication skills. For example, they use different facial expressions and gestures, and repeat younger children's words and sounds. Staff engage older children in purposeful conversations as they play. Babies are provided with plenty of space to crawl and practise their physical skills. Staff support older children to develop confidence in balancing and manoeuvring themselves around safely, using different equipment. Accurate assessments are used to monitor children's progress. All children are making consistently strong progress and are prepared extremely well for school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive as their needs are met incredibly well. Staff work closely with parents to establish children's care needs, routines and interests from the start. Children are supported superbly by the kind and caring staff and settle in quickly. They make friends easily and develop a growing understanding of the feelings and emotions of others. Their behaviour is exemplary. Children play with energy and vigour as they explore the environment freely. They are eager to join in activities and are confident talkers. Staff show they value children's views and opinions and provide them with plenty of choices throughout the day. This supports children's independence skills, and they show a strong sense of belonging.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Highly accurate assessments are completed, including the progress check for children aged between two and three years. These are used by staff to ensure that any need for early intervention can be identified and appropriate support sought. All children are making consistently strong progress towards the early learning goals.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY430475
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	850193
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	74
Number of children on roll	84
Name of provider	West Lancashire College
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2012
Telephone number	0169552559

Little Learners was registered in 2011 and operates from within West Lancashire College. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least level 3, including four who hold a qualification at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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