

Little Explorers Pre-School

Rad Valley Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8AL



Inspection date	21 January 2016
Previous inspection date	25 May 2011

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 registered persons, and all their staff team, demonstrate high levels of knowledge and understanding about their roles and responsibilities. Their expert practice, enthusiasm and high expectations for all children, enhances all aspects of children's learning and development.
- The registered persons make sure that they, all their staff, the parents and their children are fully included in the comprehensive self-evaluation processes of the provision. They consistently reflect on all areas of their practice and identify further improvements that greatly benefit the children attending.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Initial home visits are provided that allow staff to identify familiar activities so that they can be provided for children when they first start to attend. This helps children to settle quickly and be ready to learn. Staff empower parents with confidence so that they can support their child's learning at home.
- Staff develop exemplary two-way relationships with other professionals, providers and schools. This helps to make sure that comprehensive information is shared between all parties, fostering high levels of continuity and consistency in children's learning.
- The registered persons expertly monitor all aspects of the educational programmes for children. Key persons identify comprehensive information about children's previous learning. This, and information about children's interests, makes sure that planning is precise and individual to every child. Consequently, children's progress is rapid from the start.
- Children develop exceedingly strong emotional attachments with the staff caring for them. Staff are very warm, caring and positive in their interactions with the children. This also enhances children's ability to develop strong friendships with other children around them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus even more precisely on exploring ways to develop children's fine manipulation skills to further enhance the already excellent outcomes children achieve.

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 registered person.
- The inspector held a meeting with the registered persons. 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 selection of the staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The registered persons make sure all staff attend child protection training. Consequently, all staff have an excellent understanding of how to identify possible signs of abuse and neglect. All staff know what to do if they have any concerns about a child in their care. All areas of the provision are thoroughly risk assessed each day to make sure all possible hazards are identified and minimised. The registered persons implement superior systems for regular coaching of all staff. They consistently observe and monitor staff's expert practice to identify their training needs. The registered persons have identified that there is the potential to develop further ways to support children's finger and hand manipulation skills. They recognise that this will further enhance the already first-rate practice throughout the provision. As a result, children's rapid progress will continue to be very well supported, and in particular, their already excellent readiness for school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff regularly observe children as they play. This helps to make sure that all children are developing and progressing exceptionally well over time. Key persons make sure the identified next steps in children's learning are clear and concise. These clear next steps are shared regularly with parents so they are kept up to date with their child's progress. Children demonstrate high levels of confidence as they self-register and identify their own name plates. They became excited as they talk about the French teacher visiting that morning. During this session, children competently use sentences and count using both English and French languages. Children independently move between the indoor and outdoor areas as they wish. Outdoors, staff encourage children to identify the numbers on the floating ducks. Children become excited, explore and use their imagination as they search for the dinosaurs in the twigs and sawdust. Staff engage exceptionally well with the children, using a range of open and closed questions, to encourage children's excellent communications. These are some of the excellent teaching strategies used by the staff to highly motivate children's development across all areas of their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are provided with an excellent range of healthy snack foods every day. The staff talk to children about keeping their teeth clean and about being healthy and fit for life. Children use an excellent range of equipment both indoors and outdoors, and take manageable risks in their play every day. This fosters children's excellent awareness of a healthy lifestyle. All children show high levels of empathy for one another and their behaviour is excellent.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

The registered persons monitor all children, including groups of children, to make sure all their learning needs are effectively identified and met. Assessment is rigorous. As a result, all children, including those in receipt of educational funding, are making rapid progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY342105
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	849321
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	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	43
Name of provider	Michelle Hurdley & Lyndsey Paddock Partnership
Date of previous inspection	25 May 2011
Telephone number	07805 216411

Little Explorers Pre-School was registered in 2007. It is one of three provisions owned and managed by the registered persons. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Teacher status, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4 and six hold a qualification at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 2.45pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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