

Inspection date	22 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

- Children are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Well-qualified staff provide children with stimulating activities that challenge them well. Staff are skilled at supporting children in their play and helping them to make good progress in their learning, considering their starting points.
- The nursery is extremely welcoming and inclusive. Staff are good role models. They speak to children in a calm and respectful manner, which supports children to understand how to manage their own behaviour and make friends.
- Staff have robust partnerships with parents, other providers, agencies and local schools. They work well together to meet children's individual needs and provide additional support. Staff are effective in their communication with parents and involve them in children's learning.
- Staff attend regular training to support their professional development and enhance their knowledge. As a result, children benefit from improved experiences delivered by highly qualified and experienced staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the systems used by management to monitor children's progress are not fully effective.
- At times, when children might benefit from thinking through ideas for themselves, staff are too quick to provide the answers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- monitor closely the introduction of the new system for tracking children's progress
- provide children with appropriate time to respond to questions.

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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery managers. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation methods and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are clear about their responsibilities and know who to report any concerns to. Staff are supervised effectively. Supervision and appraisals are undertaken and have a strong focus on teaching and improving staff skills. Strong relationships with parents are evident. Staff regularly share records of children's progress with parents and encourage them to contribute, such as during their child's initial entry to nursery. Staff create opportunities for parents to provide information regarding children's achievements at home through the use of Wow cards, and they make good use of this information. The manager undertakes thorough self-evaluation which takes into account the views of parents and children. This enables the manager to continuously develop and improve provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan activities that follow children's interests and support the next steps in their learning. Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff are skilful at providing the right level of adult direction and support depending on the individual ability and stage of development for each child. Children are motivated to learn and enthusiastically engage in play. They love to play with sand, water, paint and dough. Children delight in making a pretend camp fire in the garden, developing their imaginative skills as they prepare dinner for their friends. Staff place a good emphasis on developing children's literacy and mathematical skills. Children have plentiful opportunities to count and are beginning to recognise numbers and shapes. They use a variety of media to practise their early writing skills, writing their names on artwork that they produce. Children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs are supported well. Children learn to have respect for each other. Resources are used well by staff to support children to learn about each other's similarities and differences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle quickly and are happy and confident as they play and explore. Children are kind and polite to their friends as they share and take turns, and their behaviour is good. Children's health, welfare and well-being are promoted successfully. Their self-care skills are excellently nurtured as they serve themselves at snack and mealtimes, washing their own plates and cups and tidying away toys and resources. Children learn about good hygiene practices and leading healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy being physically active and exploring outdoors. They develop their physical skills as they climb, jump and run. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they master how to use scissors and discuss the importance of picking up toys. The effective key-person system helps children form attachments and ensures they are emotionally secure.

Outcomes for children are good

The staff have high expectations for all children and this helps children make good progress from their starting points, including funded children. Assessments are accurate and plans are quickly made to ensure any gaps in attainment are closing. Staff support children to gain a range of skills that prepares them for moving to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY483340
Local authority	St. Helens
Inspection number	1004794
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	59
Number of children on roll	85
Name of provider	Precious Little Ones Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01744 22021

Little Harvards was registered in 2015. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, closing for bank holidays and a week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports disabled children and those with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language.

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