

Little Explorers Day Nursery

205 Knighton Road, Leicester, LE2 3TT



Inspection date

9 February 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

- The quality of teaching is consistently very good and some is outstanding. Experienced and well-qualified staff support children's development in all areas of learning. They plan stimulating activities that arise from children's interests and next steps in learning.
- The manager is strong in her leadership and highly motivated to provide the very best for children. Self-evaluation includes the views of all involved with the nursery, including the local authority.
- Staff are good role models. They foster children's personal, social and emotional development effectively and give clear guidance about acceptable behaviour. Children learn to share, take turns, play together and behave well.
- Partnerships with parents and health professionals are successful. As a result, children benefit from consistency in their care and learning.
- Children's spoken skills are very good. They eagerly join in with conversations and rapidly progress in their understanding. Staff introduce younger children to new words that relate to their play, and consistently model effective listening skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes staff do not give all children enough opportunities to develop their critical-thinking skills and to solve problems for themselves.
- The manager does not monitor the effect of staff training carefully enough, to make sure it has a positive impact on children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with enough opportunities to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- develop arrangements for evaluating the effect staff training has on outcomes for children and make sure that training always has a positive impact.

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 manager, area manager and nominated person. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector looked at children's assessments and the planning documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents, viewed written testimonials and took account of their views.

Inspector

Carly Polak

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment and induction procedures are robust. Staff have a thorough knowledge of how to safeguard children. They complete daily risk assessments and carry out regular fire drills. These help children learn how to stay safe. The manager observes staff practice in order to discuss strengths and areas for improvement during supervision sessions. This helps raise the quality of teaching. Furthermore, she monitors staff's assessments of children's progress and identifies the progress made by different groups of children. Any gaps in children's development are highlighted, enabling staff to put additional support strategies in place where needed. Self-evaluation is embedded into practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Detailed and precise observations are used well to inform planning. Staff plan exciting and challenging activities that keep children engaged and motivated. Young toddlers enjoy exploring flour and water as they make pretend pancakes. Staff introduce new vocabulary as they play, such as, lumpy and sticky. Children are engrossed in their play for significant periods of time given their young age. Older children also enjoy making pancakes and follow the recipe provided independently. This helps develop their understanding that print carries meaning. Staff support children exceptionally well during play. They talk about where flour and eggs come from. This helps children to understand about the ingredients they are using and to develop an understanding about the world around them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are keen explorers and demonstrate excellent independence skills for their age. Babies are able to select a range of appropriate resources from low storage and baskets. They climb into beds when they are tired or in need of a rest. Staff use consistent care routines, enabling children to learn about good hygiene and healthy living. Older children have a discussion with staff about why they use soya milk during an activity. This helps their understanding of allergies and the different types of milk there are. Mealtimes are a social occasion when staff enjoy various conversations with the children and encourage them to use their good manners. Fresh air and exercise are provided daily with the use of a well-resourced garden. This further contributes to children's health and well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development in relation to their starting points. Their personal, social and emotional development are supported very well, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Well planned and stimulating activities support children to gain skills needed for their future learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479189
Local authority	Leicester City
Inspection number	982541
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Leicestershire Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01162706916

Little Explorers Day Nursery was registered in 2014 and is located in Leicester. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with a foundation degree in early years. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round apart from bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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