

Little Stones Pre-School and Out of School Clubs



15 Jacksons Lane, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 4LD

Inspection date

26 November 2015

Previous inspection date

25 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 management and staff team have made significant improvements since the last inspection. Effective observation, assessment and planning by staff results in children having their individual interests and next steps in learning taken account of. Parents are informed about how well their children are developing and are given ideas to help them support their children's learning at home.
- Parents comment on how welcoming and helpful the staff team are and how they supported their children when they first started attending. They report that their children enjoy singing songs and rhymes at home that they have learnt at the pre-school.
- Children's safety is given high priority. Staff organise the session effectively to ensure they are deployed to meet children's needs. All staff understand the procedures to follow in the event of safeguarding concerns and they regularly update their training.
- Children enjoy the staff's very positive involvement in their activities. They become fully engaged with stories and activities because the staff are effective in their teaching. Staff help children to think about what they are doing and show a genuine interest in their ideas and suggestions.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children are not able to follow their interests because some resources are not in working order.
- Opportunities for children to learn about the natural world during activities in the outside play area have not been fully enhanced.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the availability of resources that fully support children's curiosity and learning
- extend the opportunities for children to learn about the natural 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 pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager, the nominated person and with two members of staff. 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 during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Melanie Eastwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The staff team are qualified, experienced and enthusiastic. This has a positive impact on the overall effectiveness of the pre-school. They work very well together and have a reflective approach to the care and learning for each child, which helps them to respond to their needs. Staff are supported to continue to increase their skills through training and this develops their confidence. Detailed information about the progress of individual children and different groups is shared with parents and is used effectively to identify what children need to do next. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Thorough recruitment procedures ensure that staff are suitable to work with children and staff have a secure awareness of how to keep children safe and ensure their welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are skilled in their teaching. They guide and extend children's learning well because they know each child very well. They listen to their ideas for activities and add these to the planning each day. The effective assessment of children's learning helps staff to keep a close check on what they can do. Staff are quick to recognise when children require extra support and are swift in working closely with parents to provide this for them. Children thoroughly enjoy playing outside in the garden where they can pursue a wide variety of activities. However, there are fewer opportunities for them to develop an understanding of the natural world. Staff place a good focus on promoting children's communication and language. They use descriptive words during games and stories and fine tune the planning to help children who need extra help. They ensure that children have time to consider their response to questions before moving on, which contributes to children's confidence to speak and share their ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are able to settle in when they start attending because the staff work on an individual basis with their parents to devise a plan. This results in children quickly developing confidence and a sense of well-being in the pre-school. Children clearly show that they have an attachment to the staff. They are confident to ask for items they want and to initiate conversations. Children behave well. Staff follow a consistent approach, gently reminding children to be kind, to share and take turns. Children are confident to choose from a wide range of resources that are linked to their interests and are accessible to them. However, staff do not always ensure that broken resources are removed. Occasionally, this results in children's interests not being captivated or sustained to enable them to fully explore and extend their own ideas. Children are learning about healthy lifestyles as they are eager to wash their hands before choosing fillings for their sandwiches at snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress. They are learning to be independent as they pour their own drinks and put their coats and boots on ready for outside play. Children are well prepared for moving on to school when the time comes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220270
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1027984
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 - 10
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	20
Name of provider	Littlestones Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 October 2012
Telephone number	01933 276645

Little Stones Pre-School and Out of School Clubs was registered in 2001 and is managed by a committee. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 4. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3pm. The out-of-school club opens from 3.10pm until 5.30pm during term time. In school holidays the club opens from 8.30am until 5.30pm except for the Christmas holidays. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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