

Little Buttons Day Nursery

Cockernhoe Farm Barn, Brick Kiln Lane, NR Luton, Hertfordshire, LU2 8PX



Inspection date

18 February 2016

Previous inspection date

28 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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 manager and staff have successfully made significant improvements since the previous inspection. For example, staff now use more accurate assessments of children's learning and development to help them shape sharply focused activities. This contributes to the good progress that all children, including babies and very young children, make.
- The well-qualified staff team confidently provides a wide range of stimulating activities to help encourage children to explore and learn. Babies enthusiastically use their hands to make marks with paint. Young children recognise colours and shapes as they join-in games with a parachute. Meanwhile, older children extend their learning as they experiment with water.
- Children feel secure and valued in the nursery. They proudly show visitors the individual placemats that they have made as they help to set the tables in preparation for lunch.
- Managers effectively evaluate the quality of care and education they provide. They seek opinions from parents and other professionals. Managers regularly review the actions they and the staff have set themselves. This contributes to their motivation to continually improve the learning environment and practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, children do not have enough time to enjoy or complete activities due to the routines of the nursery.
- Staff do not always make the most of every opportunity to encourage children to solve problems, predict outcomes or discuss answers with their friends.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of some routines to ensure that opportunities for children's learning is not interrupted
- encourage children to think about how they can solve problems, predict outcomes and complete tasks independently with their friends.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all rooms of the nursery and outside. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability of staff working with children and looked at relevant documentation, such as the safeguarding procedures and action plans.
- The inspector held a meeting with the owner.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection. She took into account their views and comments of parents documented in questionnaires.

Inspector

Katrina Rodden

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are clear about the procedures managers have put in place to keep children safe. The owner uses robust selection and recruitment methods to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children and that they are qualified for their specific role within the nursery. All new staff, including those who previously trained within the nursery, follow a structured induction process. This helps them to familiarise themselves with their roles and responsibilities in the nursery. The manager regularly meets with staff, in group and individual sessions. Together they discuss children's progress and identify areas to enhance staff's already good knowledge and understanding of all aspects of care and education. The manager has established effective methods to track and monitor children's achievements. This helps her ensure all groups of children continue to make good progress in all areas of their learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are inquisitive. They happily select toys and equipment that interest them and often take their items to share with staff or other children. Staff provide a wide range of activities and enthusiastically extend children's learning. Each key person identifies children's next steps in learning and focuses on these during targeted activities with individual children or in small-group sessions. There are times, however, when children's learning is interrupted. For example, while children are enjoying and are absorbed in listening to a story, they are sometimes called away to wash their hands in preparation for lunch. Staff communicate well with all children. They use simple signs and visual clues to effectively support children who speak English as an additional language. This helps children to quickly develop their vocabulary and understanding.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled in the nursery. The key-person system helps children to quickly build strong, trusting bonds with the adults who care for them. Staff share information with parents and find out about routines children follow at home. This helps staff integrate care needs, such as sleep times, so they are consistently followed in the nursery. An effective system is used to support children to move on either to a new room in the nursery or to school. The child's key person works in partnership with parents to make the gradual move as smooth as possible. Where possible, staff use a buddy system, helping to encourage children to play and learn with others moving to the same school as them. Children behave well in the nursery. Staff praise and encourage children to share and to be kind to others. Older children have made their own charts to collect stars for good behaviour and special achievements. This helps to motivate children. Fresh, nutritious meals and snacks are provided for children to enjoy. They learn about different kinds of food and enjoy collecting eggs from the chickens they have helped to rear.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress, given their starting points. When the time comes, children are ready to move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY375493
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1023663
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	56
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Little Buttons Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 July 2015
Telephone number	01582 722337

Little Buttons Day Nursery was registered in 2008. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager holds Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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