

Little Pals Childrens Centre Nursery

Bishops Park College, Jaywick Lane, CLACTON-ON-SEA, Essex, CO16 8BE



Inspection date

23 February 2016

Previous inspection date

10 September 2013

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

- Since the last inspection, the management team and staff have worked hard to address the actions and recommendation raised. They have continually looked for ways to improve staff practice and outcomes for children. There has been an impressive supervision and training programme with courses specifically targeted at boosting children's learning and development.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff ensure that learning environments are inviting, stimulating and highly engaging, both indoors and outside. Children and babies make good progress and develop the skills they need to move on to the next stage in their learning.
- Children and babies are happy and settled. They develop very warm and trusting relationships with their key person and other nursery staff.
- Children are very curious and become confident communicators. Staff use very effective strategies to help all children, including those who speak English as an additional language, overcome speech and language barriers.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The partnerships with parents are generally very strong. However, staff do not always gain precise information from all parents about what their children know and can do on entry, to support planning for children future learning.
- Occasionally, information is not always efficiently shared between key persons when the staffing arrangements change.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage more parents to share information about what their children know and can already do on entry to the nursery, and work together to help children make rapid progress right from the start
- strengthen information sharing within the staff team to ensure that the new key persons have all the details they need to support children following the handover when staffing arrangements change.

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 carried out a joint observation with the early years coordinator.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the nursery.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team is proactive in implementing changes to improve practice. Monitoring systems have been sharpened to rigorously check the progress of both individuals and groups of different children. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are robust procedures in place to ensure that child protection concerns are dealt with appropriately. Management and staff have confidence in their ability to record and refer information if they have concerns about a child's welfare. They are extremely vigilant about the security of children. All staff have completed safeguarding, food hygiene and first-aid qualifications, so they can deal with emergency situations, administer medication and prepare food safely. Thorough risk assessments are carried out to minimise the likelihood of accidents on the premises. The management team are fully aware of the need to inform Ofsted of significant changes or events.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of how children learn. They adapt their teaching methods to suit children's learning styles and individual needs, including disabled children and those with special educational needs. Staff successfully liaise with parents, health professionals and specialist services to ensure that children are provided with the individualised care, support and equipment they need. Staff assess children's learning accurately. The nursery has introduced a secure online assessment system. This enables key persons to immediately share with parents detailed information about their child's progress and achievements. Parents speak very positively about the care and education the staff provide for their children. Babies and toddlers have good opportunities to use all their senses when investigating. Older children are motivated to explore mathematical concepts and learn about numbers and quantities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a caring and positive environment where children feel safe and secure. The nursery uses additional funding wisely to help children gain confidence, participate and develop social skills. Children's behaviour is good. They settle quickly into their daily routines and form strong relationships with the staff and each other. They are polite and work well together. Children are supported to gain an awareness of differences within their wider world. For example, they take part in activities and use toys and artefacts to mark events from different cultures. A good range of outdoor activities, informative displays and discussion with children help them to develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. Meals and snacks are varied and nutritious. The manager is proactive in implementing changes to promote a smooth transfer for all children starting full-time education.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who access funding, make good progress in their learning. Children are independent, active learners who relish the opportunity to choose between indoor and outdoor play. They are well prepared for their next stage of learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395827
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1028747
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 - 10
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	152
Name of provider	Little Pals Childrens Centre Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	10 September 2013
Telephone number	01255 687151

Little Pals Childrens Centre Nursery was registered in 2009. It is one of two settings run by the same company. The nursery employs 28 members of childcare staff. Of these, two staff hold Early Years Professional status, four staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, 14 staff hold a qualification at level 3 and six staff hold a qualification at level 2. The nursery also employs a cook and a finance administrator. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

