

Little Acorns PreSchool

St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke Road, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH3 7LT



Inspection date

25 February 2016

Previous inspection date

25 November 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 well-established key-person system helps staff to form strong emotional bonds with children. This means that children are well settled, happy and feel safe.
- The owner and staff work in close partnership with parents and other professionals to meet children's needs very well.
- Staff help children to make good progress. For example, they support children's awareness of number very well and use effective teaching methods, such as the skilful use of questions, to encourage children to solve problems.
- Staff provide motivating, interesting activities for children to explore and investigate the world around them as they play indoors and outdoors.
- The owner reflects well on the quality of provision. She fully supports staff to attend training and improve their qualifications, to improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The owner and staff implement effective procedures for the safe use of mobile phones and cameras. However, the management team has not included details of the procedures within the written safeguarding policy, which is a requirement.
- Occasionally, children wait too long to take their turn during group activities; they sometimes lose interest and therefore do not benefit fully from these sessions.
- At times, staff miss some opportunities to encourage children to do things for themselves and strengthen their independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

Due Date

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ■ ensure the safeguarding policy includes the use of cameras and mobile phones in the pre-school. | 24/03/2016 |
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- review the organisation of some group times to ensure all children are more actively involved in their learning.
- make better use of opportunities for children to strengthen their independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the owner.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector talked with the owner, staff and children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the owner.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during children's self-chosen play and during adult-led activities.

Inspector

Tracy Hughes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The owner and staff attend child protection training and are aware of safer working practice to protect children from harm. The manager is very experienced and well qualified. She encourages staff to improve their qualifications and supports them to attend training. Regular staff meetings, supervision and performance management opportunities help to develop good teamwork and a culture of openness and respect. The owner monitors the provision and the progress that children make, taking the views of parents, staff and children into account to help drive further improvements. She works closely with agencies, such as the local children's centre and other professionals, to ensure that all children make good progress. Links with local Reception Class teachers support children's moves to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff closely observe children to find out what interests them and to plan beneficial activities. Staff have high expectations of children and skilfully extend their learning, for example by asking challenging questions that encourage them to think about the answer. Staff teach children how to write their names and to recognise written numbers. They help children to understand that print carries meaning; for example, they show children information books about frogs and tadpoles as they play imaginatively with small world pond animals. Children learn about the wider world and celebrate the people within it; for example, parents visit to share their skills and members of the emergency services tell children about their roles.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are good role models. They create a calm, positive atmosphere where children feel safe and develop their confidence. Staff use successful strategies to promote and sensitively support children's behaviour. They make sure that children understand what is expected and encourage children to develop good manners, take turns and share resources. Staff get to know children and their families very well and build strong relationships with them from the start. Staff deploy themselves effectively and supervise children closely at all times. Staff are warm and caring; they provide plenty of praise and encouragement to support less confident children to join in.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress and are gaining the skills needed for future learning. They are confident and keen to join in with the wide range of interesting activities on offer. Children develop good language skills and are confident communicators.

Setting details

Unique reference number	100524
Local authority	Bournemouth
Inspection number	824632
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Beverley Kearley
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2010
Telephone number	07886313108

Little Acorns Pre-school registered in 1992. It operates from a church hall in Winton, Bournemouth. The pre-school opens term time only from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday and Friday, and from 9.15am to 1.45pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff who work with the children, including the owner who manages the setting. She holds a childcare qualification at level 5. Of the remaining staff, four hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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