

Little Owls Nursery

Rudheath Youth Centre, Gadbrook Road, Rudheath, NORTHWICH, Cheshire, CW9 7JL



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

2 March 2016

20 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager and her deputies provide outstanding support to staff to ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently excellent. Leaders are fully committed to continuous improvement and are highly ambitious, providing every opportunity for children to succeed at the highest level.
- Staff are well qualified and experienced. Teaching is rooted in a superb understanding of how children learn. Accurate assessment of children's interests and abilities is used to provide rich and imaginative learning opportunities which enable children to build on their existing skills and make outstanding progress in all areas of learning.
- Children develop exceptionally strong emotional attachments with their key persons. All staff are warm and loving towards the children. This helps children to settle quickly and they confidently explore the welcoming environment, showing a keen desire to learn and engage in new experiences.
- Self-evaluation systems are thorough and take into account the views of staff, children and parents. Plans for improvement are well targeted on improving outcomes for children.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff have very high expectations and clear rules and boundaries mean children know what is expected of them. Staff are excellent role models, demonstrating kind and considerate behaviour. Children follow their example and build strong friendships as they take turns, show respect and share resources.
- Highly effective partnerships with the nearby school and pre-school help to ensure that children enjoy a seamless move on to their next stage in learning when the time comes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to identify ways to further engage parents in their child's learning so that children's progress accelerates at home and in the nursery.

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 registered provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the registered provider and looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of the staff during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ron Goldsmith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect children from harm. Parents are superbly involved in children's learning. They borrow learning resources and attend progress meetings and information sessions. Parents are extremely complimentary about the nursery and report that they are confident that their children are safe and well looked after. They state that they see real progression in their children's learning. The management team is keen to explore new ways to work with parents to accelerate children's progress further. Staff work extremely closely with other agencies and professionals. They value the specialised input and share relevant information to support children and their families. The manager recognises that improving staff's knowledge leads to the best outcomes for children. She supports staff to access professional development opportunities and she takes part in new initiatives to improve overall practice further. For example, the nursery is currently participating in a project to develop the learning environment so that children stretch their thinking skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching and learning is of the highest quality and is often inspirational. Detailed and rigorous assessments are completed to ensure that any need for early intervention is quickly accessed. Staff promote children's problem-solving abilities exceptionally well. For example, staff model excellent thinking skills as they encourage children to consider how they are going to make a fairy house. They talk about how many blocks they will need and what shapes will be best. Children confidently identify what they will need and successfully complete what they set out to do. Staff expertly help children to consolidate their learning as they discuss what worked well. Staff know when to provide additional support and when to let children work things out independently. Staff match their teaching methods to each child's exact level of development. In particular, they expertly help children of all abilities to rapidly develop their speech and communication skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Healthy lifestyles are fully promoted. Staff provide plenty of opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air and exercise in all weathers. Children have great fun playing running games as snow falls. Children's physical and emotional well-being are promoted extremely well as all staff have an excellent knowledge of children's individual needs. Staff constantly praise children's efforts and achievements, helping them to build a positive view of their abilities. Rules and boundaries are discussed, enabling children to have a mature understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Consequently, children demonstrate excellent levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make rapid progress from their starting points. They are highly motivated learners who demonstrate a strong desire to explore and try new things. They concentrate intently and work collaboratively to solve problems as they play together. Children are confident and self-assured, demonstrating the key skills they need for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305167
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	855085
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	75
Name of provider	Jeanette Catterall
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2009
Telephone number	07985194832

Little Owls Nursery was registered in 1999. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 3.30pm, term time only. There are 11 members of staff working with children. Of these, two hold Early Years Professional status, three hold a level 4 qualification and four hold a level 3 qualification. The nursery provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

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