

Oak Tree Nursery

Chaucers Walk, Furthergate Industrial Estate, Blackburn, BB1 3AF



Inspection date

4 March 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 shows determination to further improve the nursery. The views of staff, children and parents are gathered to support the nursery's generally effective self-evaluation.
- Parents are kept well informed about their children's learning and development, and staff work closely with them, helping to guide children's learning at home. The manager is currently putting in place new ways that parents can become even more involved.
- The manager and staff are committed to making learning accessible for all children. They offer good support for children and their families in liaison with external agencies.
- Children are well prepared for their next stages in development, including the move on to school. Staff know children well and they understand how to challenge each child and promote their learning.
- Staff skilfully support children's developing communication and language skills. They use a range of effective strategies, and this particularly helps children who speak English as an additional language to make good progress.
- Children settle in quickly. They feel emotionally secure and are relaxed in their play. Staff nurture children extremely well and the key-person system is effective in building children's confidence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager is not yet highly effective in using assessment information about the progress made by different groups of children to inform priorities for improvement.
- Monitoring of teaching is not fully rigorous and professional development for staff is not yet highly focused on developing the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of the assessments of the progress made by different groups of children to help identify and address developments to further enhance the outcomes for children
- focus more precisely on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level through highly focused professional development and incisive evaluation of the impact of staff practice.

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

Inspector

Lisa Bolton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Effective induction procedures are in place for staff and students. Regular staff supervision contributes to the nursery's robust commitment to safeguarding and safer recruitment. Staff have a strong focus on children's safety in all that they do. They have undertaken mandatory training and some additional training, and the manager knows how to deal with any underperformance. The manager understands the procedures for notifying Ofsted of a significant event. Individual children's progress is effectively monitored by staff and the manager, who promptly identify any gaps in children's learning. They work closely with parents and other professionals as needed, to help children make progress. The manager knows how to best use Early Years Pupil Premium funding based on individual children's needs. She has measures ready to evaluate the impact of spending on children's learning when the time comes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are particularly skilled in engaging boys in literacy, motivating them to read and write. Children enjoy learning new skills and show fascination in finding out about how to build a scooter. Staff provide a stimulating learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, and children show high levels of involvement in their play. They use regular opportunities to effectively incorporate aspects of learning into children's play. For example, staff often model using mathematical vocabulary during play and children are encouraged to count. They use a range of questions to help children make predictions and think for themselves. Staff observe and assess children to inform their planning and provide experiences to match children's interests and needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and staff encourage their good manners. They learn about diversity and valuing one another. Staff act as good role models who children look up to. Children learn about healthy lifestyles through a variety of effective ways. They are given lots of opportunities to practise their independence and show their good physical skills. Children happily attempt to use a knife and fork to eat, with plenty of praise and encouragement from staff for their efforts and achievements. Staff help children to learn about how to keep themselves safe. They supervise children effectively and ensure their safety and well-being are fully promoted. Children are motivated to do things for themselves, such as put on their coats for outdoor play. They are confident to access their own environment and carry out self-care tasks, such as washing their hands.

Outcomes for children are good

Children demonstrate very good listening and attention skills for their ages. Disabled children and those with special educational needs make significant progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478717
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	983664
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Little Acorns Nursery BB Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01254 433313

Oak Tree Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, apart from Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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