

Wise Owls Nursery

Bridge Street Sports Centre, Bridge Street, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EA



Inspection date

8 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 provider and staff astutely monitor the provision. They carefully check children's progress, taking prompt action to address any gaps in children's learning or the educational programme. Staff's work with vulnerable children is reviewed regularly to ensure the nursery's thorough safeguarding procedures are effectively applied.
- There are good relationships with parents. Effective settling-in procedures, including home visits, enable staff, families and children to get to know each other. Parents welcome the regular opportunities to talk to staff, stating that they feel well informed about their children's progress and are involved in plans for their child's future learning.
- Staff interact well with children, extending their use of language especially during their routines, independent play and small-group activities. Staff skilfully enthuse and praise children, encouraging their ideas. Children imaginatively describe what they are doing and are keen to show off their achievements.
- Children flourish in the welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Kind and attentive staff calmly reassure and encourage children, helping them to become increasingly confident. Staff help children to form positive relationships with each other, creating opportunities during sessions for children to enjoy each other's company and play well together.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always focus their teaching enough on the key priorities for children's learning which are identified in the accurate assessments.
- Staff do not always successfully promote children's attentive listening and involvement during some larger-group activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus teaching more precisely on children's next steps for learning, in order to promote their rapid progress and achievement at the highest level
- explore additional ways to promote children's listening skills and involvement during group activities and discussions.

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 of an activity with the nursery provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery provider and the charity's senior manager. The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation form 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 and the views of parents expressed in their written feedback to the provider.

Inspector

Rachel Wyatt

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Robust recruitment, monitoring of staff performance and a commitment to ongoing training ensure staff are well qualified, knowledgeable and confident. Their teaching and care skills are good. Staff conscientiously supervise and support children, keeping them safe and well during smoothly run sessions and calmly managed routines. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff, including the member of staff with designated responsibility for safeguarding, attend regular safeguarding training. They have a sound knowledge of abuse, neglect and other risks to children. The provider and staff carefully monitor children's welfare and take prompt action if they have concerns. There are strong links and good working relationships between the nursery and other agencies involved with children and families. These result in prompt, coordinated intervention and support for vulnerable children, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff understand children's abilities, ways of learning and interests as a result of their accurate assessments and discussions with parents. Staff generally use this information effectively to offer children activities that help them to progress well in all areas of learning. Children observe items placed on a light box and use torches and magnifying glasses to examine the features. Children explore texture, shape and form while investigating materials, fruits and vegetables. They discover how construction toys fit together when they make a model of the nursery or a tower as tall as themselves. Staff foster children's early literacy skills as they encourage their storytelling and give them opportunities to make marks with a range of media. Children learn to count accurately and compare shapes, colours and patterns when completing puzzles.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and well behaved. Staff praise their efforts and successes and promote caring attitudes and respect for each other. Children often show affection towards others and are keen to help. Their different backgrounds are valued and reflected in the nursery's toys, resources and celebrations. Parents share aspects of their cultural and linguistic heritage with children at the nursery or during children's visits in the local community. Children have a good understanding of how to be healthy. They make healthy choices about what to eat and drink and enjoy learning about where food comes from. Children relish being active and enjoy the outdoors. They proudly demonstrate how they balance and move in different ways. Staff and children often discuss safety, such as why they need to walk indoors and safe ways to use apparatus, utensils and scissors.

Outcomes for children are good

The provider and staff's effective teaching and use of funding ensure children make good progress. This includes disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. Children are well prepared for their future learning, including starting school. They are often enthusiastic, curious, expressive and resourceful. Children eagerly describe their experiences, discoveries and achievements as they investigate, construct, act out roles and use a range of equipment and materials.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478416
Local authority	Herefordshire
Inspection number	974610
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	21
Number of children on roll	18
Name of provider	Opportunities for Adventure, Knowledge and Skills Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01568 613274

Wise Owls Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. Sessions are Tuesday to Friday, term time only, from 9am until 4pm, except on a Thursday when the session is from 9am to 1pm. The nursery also provides holiday care for children aged from four to 14 years. Sessions are from 8.30am to 4pm and held on a couple of weekdays which are organised according to demand. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. Support is provided for disabled children and those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

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