

Little Acorns Children's Club



St Francis Centre, Community Hall, 144 Fencepiece Road, Hainault, Essex, IG6 2LA

Inspection date	18 March 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Not all children progress as well as they should. Some staff do not make efficient use of information gained from observations to track children's progress across all areas of learning, and to provide sufficiently challenging experiences for each child.
- Staff do not make the best use of opportunities during planned activities and children's play to extend children's mathematical development.
- Children do not have enough opportunities to see examples of their own language to build their communication skills, or learn about other languages used in their locality to increase their understanding of diversity.
- Self-evaluation is not effective. The provider has not identified inconsistencies in staff's assessments of children's learning or gaps in the curriculum programme.

It has the following strengths

- The premises are secure and staff follow good procedures to prevent unauthorised visitors gaining access to children.
- All children follow good hygiene routines. They regularly take part in physical activities and enjoy healthy meals, which promotes their good health effectively.
- Staff develop trusting relationships with parents, children and other settings to promote continuity. They use various communication methods to keep parents and others involved well informed about the children's care and learning.

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 staff regularly and consistently assess children's progress in all areas of learning, to challenge and extend children's knowledge and skills effectively	01/04/2016
■ improve the programme for mathematics to fully promote children's early mathematical development and build their individual understanding.	01/04/2016

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

- increase opportunities for children to recognise their home languages to extend their communication skills, and build their understanding of other community languages to help them learn about differences between themselves and other people
- strengthen the self-evaluation process further to identify all gaps in current practice and prioritise areas for improvement effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.
- The inspector had discussions with the provider and managers about the setting's practices and procedures.
- The inspector observed the staff's interactions with the children.
- The inspector had discussions with the staff at appropriate times and also spoke to some parents.
- The inspector sampled some documents, which included the safeguarding policies, staff records, risk assessments, assessment records and the attendance register.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. The provider uses secure systems to check staff are suitable to work with children and to support their professional development. She encourages staff to undertake relevant training. For example, staff attend regular training to ensure they understand child protection procedures, including how to proceed if they suspect a child is at risk of harm. Staff carry out regular risk assessments to reduce hazards to children and follow clear procedures for outings to keep children safe. However, checks on the quality of teaching and assessments are not sufficiently robust to consistently meet children's learning needs. The provider works with external agencies to improve the environment and she is developing the evaluation process. However, this is not effective enough to identify where requirements are not being met and improvements are needed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff support children's communication and language skills appropriately overall, including children learning to speak English as additional language. However, staff do not ensure that children have enough opportunities to recognise their home languages to extend their communication skills. Younger and older children gain useful experiences from being grouped together at the beginning and end of the day. However, staff do not promote all areas of children's learning equally. For example, staff do not build children's understanding of simple measurements and mathematical language effectively. Staff monitor children's progress. However, this is inconsistent as staff do not use assessment effectively to identify and close any gaps in children's learning over time.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

While there are weaknesses in supporting children's learning, the staff obtain information from parents to gain knowledge of children's needs and help them settle. Staff use an effective key-person system to enable children to feel secure, happy and form close attachments. Staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management and use appropriate strategies to help children understand boundaries. Staff support younger children in sharing and taking turns, and encourage older children to become responsible in looking after the environment. Staff provide children with experiences to help them develop some awareness of diversity. However, children do not learn about other community languages to increase their understanding of similarities and differences.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children acquire some of the key skills in preparation for the next stage in their development and for school. However, the weaknesses in the assessment process means that some children are not sufficiently challenged to make the best possible progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493845
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1041923
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Little Acorns Children's Club (UK) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07926825667

Little Acorns Children's Club registered in 2015. It is located in a church hall in Hainault in the London Borough of Redbridge. The club opens each weekday from 9.15am to 3.15pm. The club is in receipt of funding for free early education sessions for children aged two, three and four years. The breakfast club opens from 7.30am to 8.50am and the after-school provision runs from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. There is a holiday play scheme and it runs from 8am to 6pm during the school holidays, not including the Christmas period. The club employs 11 staff; of these, eight are qualified at levels 2 and 3.

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