

Little Acorns Nursery HMP Styal Mother and Baby Unit



H M Prison, Styal Road, Styal, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 4HR

Inspection date	21 March 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Managers are fully committed to continuous improvement and are highly ambitious. They are uncompromising in their drive for excellence and have successfully led a team of staff to provide the highest levels of care and educational experiences for children. They are at the forefront of innovative practice which benefits both the children who attend and their families.
- Teaching and learning are of the highest quality. Staff are experienced and well qualified. They fully recognise that each child is unique and adapt their approach accordingly. They provide an outstanding learning environment for babies, with extensive opportunities and resources for sensory play, exploration and discovery.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. Parents state that they value the specialised input staff provide into their child's development. They find staff approachable and this provides a strong base for staff to help empower parents, so that they can continue to support their children's future learning and care needs.
- Staff meticulously track the progress children make. They ensure that any gaps in children's learning are rapidly identified. Effective partnerships with other agencies and professionals mean that any need for early intervention is swiftly accessed.
- Children's emotional well-being is promoted exceptionally well. Staff are highly responsive to the individual needs of children. They help babies to successfully form strong emotional attachments and to feel very secure within the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement the plan for the outdoor environment to build on the excellent outdoor learning experiences already provided for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of the staff during the inspection and held a meeting with nursery managers.
- The inspector examined a sample of policies, including staff qualifications and suitability checks, children's assessment profiles and planning documentation.
- The inspector discussed the nursery's self-evaluation and explored how the managers evaluate the quality of provision and practice to drive improvements.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection.
- The inspector and manager jointly observed practice in the nursery.

Inspector

Sharon Hennam-Dale

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children's safety and welfare are given the utmost priority. Potential risks to children in all indoor and outdoor areas are meticulously assessed. All staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect children from harm. Managers provide inspirational leadership to the strong staff team. Supervision meetings accurately identify aspects of staff practice that can be further developed, and these are addressed through relevant training courses. All those working within the nursery are truly passionate about what they do. Self-evaluation systems are rigorous and take into account the views of staff and parents. Areas identified for further improvement are carefully considered to ensure that any changes will bring significant benefit to children. For instance, there are excellent plans to enhance the outdoor environment. These now need to be implemented to build on the already high-quality learning experiences that are available.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff demonstrate expert knowledge and have high aspirations for all children. Accurate assessments are used to plan challenging activities and staff tailor their teaching to support each child to achieve their next steps. Staff are highly responsive to children's changing interests. For instance, they respond to babies' fascination with shiny materials, using a mixture of water and glitter to extend their sensory development. Staff capture babies' curiosity further as they encourage them to explore how to make sounds by pressing the shiny keys on a toy piano. There is an extremely sharp focus on helping babies to develop their early communication and language skills. For instance, staff repeat key vocabulary as they share books. Children benefit from an exceptional range of toys and resources which promotes positive images of diversity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Babies settle very quickly and are extremely happy. Staff promote their independence superbly. They sensitively stand back while babies explore and engage in new experiences. All staff are warm and loving towards the children. Babies smile with delight and are confident in their interactions with staff, enjoying many cuddles. Babies show that they feel at home and there is a strong sense of belonging throughout the whole nursery. Staff engage parents in a range of high-quality activities to help them engage with their children. For example, baby massage, music, cooking, messy play and parenting programs are all provided. Moves into or out of the nursery are managed extremely sensitively to help children cope with change positively. Healthy lifestyles and effective hygiene routines are fully promoted. Staff provide plenty of opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air in the garden or through visits to local parks and play centres. Behaviour is excellent. Staff are positive role models and constantly praise children's efforts and achievements.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make rapid progress from their starting points. Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their learning. They are self-aware, confident to explore and keen to interact with others, demonstrating strong communication skills for their age.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336987
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1039329
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 1
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	Action for Children
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01625 553128

Little Acorns Nursery HMP Styal Mother and Baby Unit was registered in 2006. It operates from within Styal Prison, Cheshire. The nursery is managed by Action for Children. The nursery offers sessions each weekday from 8am to 12pm, for 50 weeks of the year, excluding bank holidays. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one who holds Early Years Professional status. The setting has recently been awarded a Nursery World Award for Parent Partnership.

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