

Little Rascals (Darlaston)

Little Rascals, Bilston Street, Wednesbury, WS10 8EY



Inspection date	1 February 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

- Managers and staff are keen to enhance the quality of the provision. They seek the views of parents, staff and children to help inform their action plans. They have a clear vision of how to improve outcomes for children.
- Staff interact with children in a warm and caring manner. Staff offer attention and reassurance to help children settle, promoting their emotional well-being effectively.
- Activities are based on children's interests and the environment supports their independent play and learning well. This means children settle quickly and make good progress. Children enjoy using a wide range of good quality toys and individually designed equipment.
- Partnership working with other professionals is highly effective. Disabled children and those with special educational needs are provided with very good support at the nursery.
- Children are developing the skills and attitudes that prepare them well to move through the nursery and for the eventual progression to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend children's vocabulary.
- Parents are not always encouraged to share information about their children's learning and development at home. This means staff cannot consistently build on this information to enhance children's learning experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to extend their vocabulary and understanding of new words
- provide even more opportunities to share information with parents about their children's learning and development at home.

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 managers and looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views through written feedback.
- The inspector spoke to the staff and children throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Rogers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers and staff have a clear understanding of how to identify and report any concerns regarding children's care. Staff identify hazards, ensure there is a safe environment and are clear about how to keep children safe from harm. Partnership working is well embedded and staff work successfully with a wide range of outside agencies to support children and their families. Parents and carers give very positive feedback about the setting and place a great deal of confidence in staff. Staff are well qualified. Their professional development is promoted through further training, peer observations and sharing best practice with other settings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Assessments of children are used effectively by staff to plan challenging activities that reflect children's interests and promote their good progress. Staff encourage children to explore their own ideas through play. Outdoor play is encouraged for children of all ages. Children gain in confidence as staff introduce creative ideas that encourage them to enjoy imaginary play and develop their own ideas. For example, children pretend to be builders and use tools that further extend their imagination. This promotes children's communication skills as they describe what they are doing and develop ideas that help them solve problems. Staff are led by children's individual preferences while they talk to them about what they are doing and encourage their confidence. Children are encouraged to paint on a variety of surfaces that include foil and shiny paper. They make hand prints and use leaves and bricks to print onto paper. Staff ask questions that challenge children's mathematical thinking as they build towers and recognise colours. Babies and younger children's curiosity develops well as they freely explore sand and water.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff understand children's needs well. Parents contribute to initial assessments of children's starting points on entry. Children settle in smoothly as sessions are designed to meet their individual needs. The care needs of younger children are well supported by skilled and attentive staff. Older children develop a good understanding of the importance of hygiene routines. Children enjoy using the outdoor area frequently during the day. They use wheeled toys and tools to dig in mud and sand. This provides children with exercise and promotes their confidence. Children learn about the wider world, such as, through visits to a local park, shops, library and post office. There are good opportunities for children to develop their independence throughout the day. They help serve their own meals and snacks and discuss at mealtimes which food is good for them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress given their starting points, including those in receipt of early education funding. Any gaps in children's learning are narrowing and they are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482623
Local authority	Walsall
Inspection number	995364
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	83
Name of provider	Little Rascals Childcare (West Midlands) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0121 439 2830

Little Rascals (Darlaston) was registered in 2014. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one has Early Years Practitioner status, one has level 6 and one has level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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