

Best Start@Alma Park

Best Start, Alma Park, Woodway Lane, Claybrooke Parva, LUTTERWORTH,
Leicestershire, LE17 5FB



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

5 May 2016

16 August 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Staff are vigilant about the safety and well-being of children. Potential risks within all areas of the nursery are identified and minimised.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Staff regularly share information with parents and ensure that they are fully informed about all aspects of their children's care and learning. Staff give parents support to continue their child's learning at home.
- Staff observe and assess children's learning and development. They take account of the next steps in children's learning and their particular interests when planning activities. This ensures their needs are effectively met and children are motivated to learn.
- Children enjoy freshly prepared, nutritional meals each day. Meals are cooked on site and take account of children's individual dietary needs. Fresh drinking water is freely available.
- Settling-in procedures and arrangements for when children move from room to room within the nursery are effective in supporting children's emotional development. Staff have good links with local schools. They support children to gain the skills and confidence needed to help them in the move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, group times are not organised effectively. Sometimes, children lose interest because staff expect them to sit for too long.
- Staff do not seek enough information from parents about what children already know and can do when they first start.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of group times to help all children to participate and engage more effectively
- seek more detailed information from parents about their child's achievements when children first join the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the operations manager and discussed the procedures for staff supervision.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery management team. She looked at relevant documentation, such as, the self-evaluation, policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

Inspector

Teresa Lester

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures. Processes for the recruitment of new staff are robust. All required checks are made to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The management team is committed to providing quality care and education. The manager collates staff's ideas and gathers views and opinions from parents as part of the setting's evaluation process. This helps to ensure that the nursery continuously develops and moves forward. Staff's practice is regularly observed and strengths and areas for improvement are discussed during supervision meetings. Training supports staff to develop and refine their teaching skills and improve outcomes for children and their families. Parents speak very positively of the support, care and high-quality service provided.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is overall good and on occasions outstanding. Staff know their key children well and quickly recognise what they need to learn next. The manager checks on and tracks children's development carefully. Any identified gaps are closed in a timely manner. Planned and spontaneous activities give staff opportunities to challenge children so that they make good progress in their learning and development. Staff engage children in conversation, teach them new vocabulary and ask questions to promote their thinking skills. Children recognise their written names and enjoy mark making and looking at books. They count and problem solve during construction activities. Children develop a growing awareness of information technology as they enjoy using simple programmes on a computer.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy being physically active, both inside and outdoors. They access the outdoor play area freely throughout the day, helping to promote their good health and support their physical well-being. Staff support children as they learn to negotiate with each other and resolve conflicts. Children share, take turns and are thoughtful towards their friends. Staff praise their good behaviour. Children learn about their community and the wider world. They recognise and talk about similarities and differences between themselves and others. Children learn how to keep themselves safe. They discuss the need to wear sun hats and older children confidently describe why sun cream is needed on warm days.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive funding, make good progress in their learning. Any gaps in their achievements are closing. Children's independence is fostered. They confidently serve their own meals, tidy away toys and make choices regarding their play and the activities they engage in. Children are emotionally secure and keen to learn. They are developing early literacy and mathematical skills in preparation for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY437137
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1042033
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Best Start Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	16 August 2012
Telephone number	01455221918

Best Start@Alma Park was registered in 2011. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one who holds level 4, one who holds early years professional status and one who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy for care and education.

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