

Little Admirals Pre-school

Exercise Deck, Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO3 5XT



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

12 May 2016

16 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 staff work extremely hard each day to set up a stimulating and safe environment for children. All children feel welcomed, settled and happy.
- Children receive good teaching, support and positive interaction from the staff, who know their key children well. Children make good progress in their development.
- The staff are clear on their role and responsibility in meeting legal requirements. There is a strong focus on the safeguarding and welfare of children.
- The management team works well together. There is a strong emphasis on the supervision and monitoring of staff practice to raise standards at the setting.
- Staff communicate well with parents, particularly about children's learning and progress. For example, they have 'family days' where parents become involved in the children's play and find out how they can support learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Adult-led, group teaching times are not always planned effectively. The high number of children in each group sometimes makes it difficult for staff to deliver high quality teaching.
- Although there is a well-established key-person system in place, particularly for the newest children, it is not completely effective in promoting high quality relationships during personal care routines.
- Parents are not able to easily access the setting's policies and procedures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reflect more rigorously on the quality of teaching, to ensure that adult-led activities are pitched consistently at the right level to enable extremely strong learning outcomes for children
- strengthen further the role and responsibilities of key persons, to help promote very strong relationships among staff and children
- develop a system whereby parents can view the setting's policies and procedures.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's play activities indoors and outdoors, looked at the available resources and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and nominated person about the effectiveness of leadership and management, including self-evaluation methods.
- The inspector spoke to a sample of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a clear knowledge of the procedures to follow if they are worried about a child or have concerns about an adult. Thorough systems are in place for the recruitment, vetting and induction of staff to ensure their performance is good. Overall, there is regular, self-reflective practice and a strong commitment towards improvement. Staff have a clear picture of their strengths and areas for development. Staff are well qualified and attend training, for example, on how best to support two-year-olds. They monitor children's progress and adjust their care and learning programme accordingly, such as reorganising lunchtime using new tables. Links with schools and other settings are strong with clear lines of communication.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's play and learning effectively. They interact skilfully and purposefully with children, building on what children know and can do. During free-choice play, children are fully engaged and motivated to learn. They discover and find out about the world they live in. For example, they excitedly search for minibeasts in the 'bug hotel' outdoors and talk about their findings to adults. Staff observe children successfully, assess their needs and plan effectively for their future progress that is mostly delivered in free play. Staff encourage children to be physically active, for example, they develop balancing and jumping skills as they negotiate the obstacle course.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The caring and attentive staff build good relationships, overall, with the children, who show that they are confident and inquisitive learners. The newest children quickly settle and are cared for extremely well. They receive cuddles and comfort in times of need. Children feel safe. Staff have good safety and security procedures in place, such as during children's arrival and departure. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. They place a strong emphasis on outdoor play and on healthy eating during snack time. Staff follow accident procedures closely. Overall, children behave well. Staff are good role models and receive training on how to manage children's behaviour consistently.

Outcomes for children are good

The outcomes for children's learning are good because they receive good support and challenge from staff to help them achieve their next steps in learning. Children develop the key skills required for their future lives. For example, older children listen well at group time, observe the butterfly farm and show their understanding as they answer questions. They enthusiastically draw pictures, such as rainbows, using their imagination, and talk accurately about the colours and the number of pencils they will use. Children investigate flour using a variety of tools and use the touchscreen computer effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY312742
Local authority	Portsmouth
Inspection number	1028816
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 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	99
Name of provider	Little Admirals Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2013
Telephone number	02392 781367

Little Admirals registered in 2007. It is a community pre-school managed by a voluntary committee. The pre-school occupies the community wing on the premises of The Admiral Lord Nelson School in Portsmouth, Hampshire. The setting is open from 8am to 4pm during term time. The committee employs 17 staff, of whom 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above.

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