

Little Acorns of Rushbury

Rushbury Primary School, Rushbury, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7EB



Inspection date

7 March 2016

Previous inspection date

17 December 2009

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

- Children who the nursery receives additional funding for are supported extremely well. Staff target specifically bought resources to enhance children's learning at home. They develop children's interests of dance and build on their ability to follow instructions by bringing in a dance teacher, supporting their progress superbly.
- Children are exceedingly well prepared for school. Staff teach them what they need, such as early writing skills, mathematical skills, self-care skills and concentration skills. This helps children to excel in their learning and enter school being able to confidently manage their own self-care and secure in their early writing skills.
- There is a very strong culture of safeguarding in the nursery. All those who work within the nursery are vigilant in keeping children safe. Staff and committee members take their role in protecting children very seriously. They meticulously review their safeguarding practice, in order to make improvements in line with legislation.
- Children's transition into the nursery and on to school is smooth. Before they start they attend the stay-and-play session with their parents. This helps them to get to know staff and become familiar with the environment.
- Children develop an excellent understanding of their own community and the celebrations of others. They share pictures of where they live as they discuss their community. Staff take children to a Chinese restaurant to celebrate Chinese New Year. This helps them learn about others in meaningful ways.
- Staff are highly skilled and well qualified. This helps them to set high expectations of their own practice and children's progress. The manager critically evaluates staff's teaching and provides challenging feedback to them to improve teaching even further.
- The manager is highly responsive, as she seeks the views of all those involved in the nursery to make improvements. This helps to sustain the high-quality provision.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider the impact of changes to the way the progress made by different groups of children is monitored.

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 the nursery manager and the chairperson of the committee. He looked at relevant documentation, such as children's learning records and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the headteacher of the host school. He also held a meeting with a teacher to discuss partnership working and children's transition to school.

Inspector

Scott Oliver Thomas

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have a robust understanding of how to safeguard children. Staff enjoy professional development opportunities that are carefully linked to their own progression. Staff are fully up to date and this enables them to be highly responsive to the needs of all children and their families. The manager stringently evaluates and monitors all aspects of the provision. Children's individual progress is closely checked through regular assessments. The manager is currently working to extend the way they closely monitor the progress of different groups of children. The manager works well with the local health visitor to carry out joined-up assessments of children's progress. As a result, children get tailor-made support both in the nursery and at home that helps them to make rapid progress from their individual starting points.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is extremely well adapted to meet the needs of children. For example, staff very skilfully support older children to write their name and younger children to make marks that resemble letters of their name. These are some of the skills that help to prepare children exceptionally well for school. Teaching is closely aligned to the host school. Staff teach phonics in the same way and plan with the school. This supports children to be introduced to the teaching they will receive in school. Children's transition to school is excellent. They visit the class they will start in on a weekly basis. This builds their confidence and helps them to be ready to engage in learning quickly when they do start. Staff provide clear targets for children who need additional support. Parents and other staff are fully informed about how best to support individual children. Therefore, they catch up swiftly.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children learn in a variety of different ways. They are empowered by staff to make independent choices, as they choose what they want to play with in this highly stimulating and organised environment. This encourages them to take the lead in their own learning. Staff are very skilled in engaging children during adult-led group activities. For example, during circle time, children demonstrate excellent level of concentration in learning. Children's behaviour is excellent. They follow the routines of the day very well. Staff share the daily routine with children and give them warning about what will happen next. This helps the day run smoothly and children to be reassured.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points, including those who the nursery receives funding for. Children have improved self-esteem. They are encouraged to be proud of what they do. Children are able to correctly select and name different shapes, promoting their mathematical development. Staff praise children's efforts; this helps them to have a sense of achievement. Children develop outstanding communication and language skills. Their ability to listen carefully to stories and recall the story through conversations is excellent. This prepares them extremely well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	224129
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	854664
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	10
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	Little Acorns of Rushbury Committee
Date of previous inspection	17 December 2009
Telephone number	01694771677

Little Acorns of Rushbury was registered in 1999. It is based on the site of Rushbury CofE Primary School. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and the manager holds Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The nursery offers occasional care during school holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery cares for disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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