

Little Squirrels Nursery

St Marys Church Hall, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2QS



Inspection date

6 July 2016

Previous inspection date

14 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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

- Children have good relationships with staff. Their individual personal needs are now well met. Staff are good at planning and providing stimulating activities, which encourage children's learning and their ongoing progress effectively.
- Staff successfully observe and assess children's achievements to establish how they are doing, and to seek early intervention if needed to support their individual needs.
- Children are happy, settled and enjoy the toys and resources on offer. They behave well; for example, they make friends, take turns and are polite.
- Children now play in a clean and welcoming environment. They benefit from daily access to the outside area, which supports their good health and well-being effectively.
- Staff work well with parents and with other professionals involved in children's learning, which helps children make good progress.
- Leaders have a robust recruitment, vetting and induction programme to check that the staff are suitable to work with the children. They have addressed issues from the previous inspection to raise the nursery's overall quality.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Older children do not have consistent opportunities to practise their reading skills, and extend their understanding of letters and sounds as effectively as possible.
- At times, staff do not make sure that group activities are purposeful for all children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- take every opportunity for older children to develop their early and pre-reading skills, to strengthen even further their preparation for school
- review the structure of group times to take full account of each child's individual learning needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities and play experiences available to children.
- The inspector observed interactions between children and staff.
- The inspector asked staff questions about their work and jointly observed practice with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views on the provision.
- The inspector sampled documentation and children's development records.

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders and staff know their roles well, despite some being new to the nursery. Leaders support the staff's professional development well and monitor their practice effectively. For example, staff are benefiting currently from a speech and language programme to improve their teaching abilities further in this area. The manager reflects on how well children progress, such as through discussions with staff, planning and tracking groups of children. This knowledge allows her to pinpoint and address any gaps in learning. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are confident in their responsibilities for child protection and secure in the procedures for referring any concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a stimulating environment for the children. They offer good support when children enter the nursery; for example, staff greet children warmly, which boosts confidence. Children settle well and enjoy selecting from the good variety of toys and resources. These provide interest and support investigative play. For example, children enjoy experimenting with water and paint brushes to form letters on the ground. Staff support children's communication, language and problem-solving skills well during their activities. For example, when children use toy tools, staff ask interesting questions to develop children's comprehension of sizes, differences and similarities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate that they are secure in the nursery and have good relationships with their key workers. Children learn how to keep themselves safe and develop a strong understanding of how to be healthy. For example, staff remind them to use their 'walking feet' inside and discuss the importance of 'catching their coughs' to prevent the spread of germs. Children develop their personal independence well. For example, during snack time, children select fruit and they get their own drinks. Children's physical skills develop well, for example, when they balance on stilts and other large equipment.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well overall from their starting points and are well-prepared for the next stages in their learning. Children enjoy being creative, develop their coordination and speech, and use their imaginations well. For example, they make items from recycled cartons and boxes, and enjoy dressing up.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418558
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1034903
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	87
Name of registered person	Chloe Jade Daysh
Registered person unique reference number	RP515823
Date of previous inspection	14 December 2015
Telephone number	07598159248

Little Squirrels Nursery registered in 2010. It is located in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. The nursery is open each weekday from 9.15am to 12.30pm during school terms, with an option to stay for a lunch club between 12.30pm and 1.15pm. There are five members of staff. Of these, three staff hold early years qualifications at level 3 and one member of staff holds qualified teacher status.

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