

Little Oaks Kindergarten

85 Canterbury Road, Hawkinge, Folkestone, CT18 7BP



Inspection date	5 August 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

- The staff have a secure knowledge of how children learn. This has a positive impact on children's development and they make good progress.
- Staff value all children and meet their individual needs effectively. Children develop strong relationships with their key person, which helps them to feel safe and secure.
- Staff are good role models for children, who learn to behave well. For example, they value and respect others.
- Relationships with parents are strong. Staff use various ways to engage and involve parents effectively in the nursery and children's learning. Parents value the bonds that staff have with their children and appreciate staff's support and the good quality care.
- The provider uses self-evaluation well to improve the quality of care and teaching. She and the managers promptly address any areas for improvement.
- Staff support babies and toddlers effectively with a wide selection of age-appropriate toys and activities, inside and outside, that are well matched to their areas for development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make effective use of all opportunities to extend children's understanding of mathematics further.
- Staff do not fully extend children's understanding and awareness of people's differences and similarities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more opportunities to develop their understanding and awareness of mathematics
- build on children's understanding and awareness of people's differences and similarities in the wider world even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's activities, and completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held conversations with the manager, the provider, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks and qualifications, and relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's observations, planning and assessment records.

Inspector

Soni Chana

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff are enthusiastic and work well together as a team to maintain a happy and effective learning environment. Staff communicate well with other settings that children attend to share relevant information. This provides a consistent approach to children's care and learning. The management team and staff regularly monitor children's progress. This helps to ensure that activity planning takes account of any gaps in the learning of each child and for specific groups, such as boys and girls. The processes used mean that parents can easily see their children's progress at any time. Management continually improves the quality of staff practice, for example, with regular training and ongoing individual support. Staff have a secure knowledge about child protection and know what to do if they have concerns about a child. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding and knowledge of how to support children's individual learning needs. For example, with young children they repeat letter sounds clearly to improve their language and communication skills. Staff gather detailed information from parents about children's interests and development at home to help them build on children's learning experiences. Staff use the wide range of resources well to engage children. For instance, children enthusiastically used exciting ingredients to make 'magic potions' in the outdoor 'mud kitchen'. The activity positively encouraged decision-making, listening skills and turn taking.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The kindergarten has a welcoming environment. Staff have a caring approach and help children grow into confident keen learners. Children arrive happily and explore their surroundings with confidence. Staff manage behaviour well. They gently reinforce the same boundaries and children know what is expected of them. Children are polite and well behaved. They share toys and involve each other in their play. All babies and children have access to good physical play opportunities. Staff encourage children's growing awareness of healthy lifestyles. For example, they provide nutritious snacks and meals, and children help to grow fruits and vegetables in the garden.

Outcomes for children are good

Babies and children develop well from their starting points, at a level typical for their age. This helps to prepare them effectively for the next stage in their learning or for school. Children use their imagination well, for example, as they use water sprayers with paint or collect natural items during walks to create pictures. Children have a great interest in books and stories, which helps to develop their early literacy skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY475631
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	989332
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	40
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	Little Oaks Early Years Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP519609
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01303850203

Little Oaks Kindergarten was registered in 2014 and is located in Hawkinge, near Folkestone in Kent. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, throughout the year. There are 19 staff, of whom 16 hold relevant childcare qualifications. This includes four staff who have early years professional status and one member of staff who has an early years degree. The provider receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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