

Little Pals Children's Centre Nursery Limited

Hemmington House, 51-53 Broadway, Clacton-On-Sea, Essex, CO15 2EX



Inspection date

12 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

- Children have access to a wide variety of interesting resources, both indoors and outside. They make good progress as they are encouraged to lead their own play. Staff ensure that activities match children's interests, enthusiasms and capabilities.
- A well established and effective key-person system helps children to form strong bonds with the staff. High levels of support are offered when children join the nursery and to prepare them for starting school.
- Children behave very well. Staff are calm and positive role models and frequently praise children to boost their self-esteem. They support children to play harmoniously together by sharing resources and taking turns with the toys.
- Staff have formed effective partnerships with other settings and local primary schools. They share information to promote continuity in children's care and learning.
- Leadership and management are good. Self-evaluation and targeted action plans identify and address priorities for improvement. The views and suggestions of staff, parents and children are regularly sought and acted on.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff are monitored and encouraged to access training to improve their knowledge, these development opportunities are not always focused sharply enough on enhancing staff's individual teaching skills.
- Staff are not yet making the most of every opportunity to link with parents and effectively work together to support children in gaining independence in managing their own personal care needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen professional development and the monitoring of staff practice and focus more sharply on supporting staff to develop their teaching skills to a higher level
- link more effectively with parents and work together towards supporting all children to confidently attend to their personal toileting needs.

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 carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions at appropriate times with the nominated person, manager, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the nursery.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Since registration, the manager and staff have developed a strong team spirit. They meet regularly to evaluate and review practice. All staff are keen to raise the level of their qualifications. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust recruitment processes are in place and management checks that staff remain suitable to work with children. Staff are fully aware of their child protection responsibilities. They have regular opportunities to discuss any concerns they may have about children and access safeguarding training and updates from the local authority. Management builds strong partnerships with parents and outside agencies. This helps them to take appropriate action, helping to support children and families when the need arises.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are enthusiastic learners who excitedly engage in interesting and challenging activities. They work with staff to measure items in the construction area. They explore volume and capacity when experimenting with sand and water. Children use their imagination as they use high-quality props and resources in role play scenarios. Staff make regular observations of children's learning and the manager effectively monitors the progress of both individuals and different groups of children. Next steps in learning are carefully planned to ensure that all children, including those with lower starting points, make effective progress. Parents have regular opportunities to discuss their children's progress, including the required check for children aged between two and three years.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The staff team has a warm and caring approach. Children approach staff readily to share their thoughts and ideas, or for reassurance and help. They effectively learn about the world around them. Outings are made to the park, farm and beach. Children use a variety of resources and books that portrays positive images of differences and similarities between themselves and others. Staff encourage children to develop safe and healthy lifestyles and are mindful of the effects of hot weather. They ensure that sun lotion is applied and children drink plenty of water during the day. Overall, staff have appropriate expectations of what children can do for themselves. They encourage children to pour their own drinks and prepare fruit for snack. Parents praise the care their children receive. They say they appreciate the small size of the nursery and the close bonds their children develop with staff.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making the expected progress in all areas of learning, given their individual starting points. They are enthusiastic learners and develop confidence in social situations. Children actively explore the environment and seek out their friends to share their experiences. They start to develop key skills in literacy and mathematics that help to prepare them for more formal learning when they move on to full-time education. Individualised programmes for children who have special educational needs or disability help to close any gaps in achievement steadily. Children who receive additional funding also have targeted support to enhance their progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476838
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	971805
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Little Pals Childrens Centre Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529083
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01255688427

Little Pals Children's Centre Nursery Limited was registered in 2014 and is one of two settings run by the same limited company. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, two staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 2. The nursery also uses qualified bank staff from the sister nursery to provide cover in the event of staff absence. The nursery opens on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8.30am until 12.30pm and from 1pm to 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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