

Little Explorers Kindergarten Woodlands

St Pauls URC, Singlewell Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7RE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

16 September 2016

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	2
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

- There are good partnerships with other settings that children attend and local schools. This helps staff to share information to support continuity in children's learning and prepare them for the next stage in their learning and school.
- Children make good progress. They are motivated, eager and engaged in their learning.
- The staff work well together. They use their observations of children's play to offer a variety of interesting and well-planned activities. This helps to support children's learning and development.
- Children behave well and enjoy completing small tasks independently. They have a good understanding of safety and learn to manage their own care routines.
- The manager supports staff to develop their knowledge, skills and practice. For example, they have regular opportunities to complete further training and share their new knowledge with the rest of the staff team.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not yet found successful ways to fully support parents to continue their children's learning at home.
- Assessments of children's learning are not consistently as precise as possible to provide high levels of challenge and help them make the best possible progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore even more ways to extend the partnership with parents and engage them further in supporting their children's learning at home
- build further on the already good monitoring processes to precisely identify children's achievements and use these to help them make the best possible progress.

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 talked with the provider, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation of a planned activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as children's learning records, planning documentation and a range of other records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke with parents on the day of the inspection and took account their views.

Inspector

Joanna Wilkinson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have completed safeguarding training. Staff know what to do if they have a concern about a child's safety or welfare and the procedures to follow to protect children. Staff keep the premises safe. For example, they carry out daily risk assessments both indoors and outdoors, to identify and remove hazards. Staff receive good support from the manager through regular one-to-one sessions, training and team meetings. The manager continually uses self-evaluation processes to seek ways to improve children's care and education experiences. For example, as part of her continuous improvement, she has sought support from other professionals to develop the provision and their practice further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact positively with children and develop their communication and language skills. For example, they introduce new words to children such as 'slimy' to describe the sticky, wet dough. Staff plan activities that reflect children's interests and stages of development. For example, they encourage children to learn about emotions to create pizzas, using different ingredients to highlight their facial features as they begin to learn about similarities and differences. Children have good opportunities to develop their sensory skills. For example, they make magic potions with different smelling ingredients and develop their awareness of smells. Staff encourage children to understand how things work. For example, they provide resources, such as remote-controlled cars, which children learn to operate with ease.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have a friendly, caring approach, and children respond easily to them. Staff keep consistent boundaries and children behave well and know what is expected of them. For example, children learn to take turns, listen, share and follow instructions. Children show strong levels of independence. For example, they help one another to put on coats and wellington boots prior to going into the garden. Staff develop children's physical skills well. For example, they encourage children to run, ride bicycles and to develop their balance and coordination.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress over time, including those who receive additional funding. Children develop good social skills and are happy and confident learners. They learn to concentrate, such as when they listen to stories. Children use mathematical language, for instance, counting candles on their pretend cakes. They have good imaginative skills and use resources to support their interests and ideas. For example, children safely peel vegetables to make a soup to sell in their pretend restaurant.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484795
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	999807
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 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Little Explorers Kindergarten Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP533177
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07932 061 880

Little Explorers Kindergarten Woodlands registered in 2014. The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school is open from 9am to 12pm and from 12pm to 3pm on Wednesday and Friday, during term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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