

Little Acorns Out of School Club Limited



St. Hilda's Church, Thornleigh Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE2 3ET

Inspection date 6 January 2017
Previous inspection date 1 May 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager uses self-evaluation to recognise current strengths and areas for future development. This helps to ensure the setting is continually improving and enables staff to provide the best possible service for children and parents.
- Children's emotional well-being is exceptionally promoted. An effective key-person system is implemented to support children to develop strong bonds with staff and their peers.
- Staff create a very warm and friendly environment where children feel secure and settle quickly. Children are extremely confident and comfortable in their surroundings.
- Strong partnerships have been established with the local primary school. Staff regularly meet with teachers and share information through the use of a communication book. This helps to create consistency of care and learning for children.
- Staff highly successfully support children to fully understand the expectations within the setting. Children work alongside staff very effectively to devise their own rules and boundaries. This enables them to take ownership of what behaviour is acceptable and appropriate.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Systems for monitoring staff practice are not yet highly focused on strengthening the good quality of interactions even further.
- Occasionally, staff do not make the best use of group time activities to enable younger children to fully participate and be actively involved.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen systems for the monitoring of staff practice that help raise the quality of interactions to an even higher level
- maximise opportunities for younger children to participate and become engaged in group time activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the setting accessed by children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the team leader.
- The inspector observed play and learning opportunities for children and spoke to staff members in the setting.
- The inspector carried out an interview with the manager and looked at and discussed a range of policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, parents and carers spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Rachel Enright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and fully understand how to safeguard children from potential harm. The manager is confident in her role as lead practitioner for safeguarding. She knows how to protect children's welfare and what to do in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member. The majority of staff are qualified and have attended relevant training, including first aid and food hygiene. The manager encourages staff to further their professional development and keep up to date with changes to guidance and legislation. Generally, staff are supported by the manager as they are involved in appraisals and termly meetings. These opportunities enable staff to contribute effectively to the running of the setting as they feel valued and motivated in their work. There are good systems in place for recruitment, induction and vetting to ensure staff are clear about their daily role and responsibilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff continue to deliver the learning and development requirements of the early years foundation stage. This helps all children to progress well and supports their future learning. Overall, children participate in a good selection of interesting experiences and gain a wide range of skills. Children's communication and language are promoted well. Staff involve children in conversation and ask effective questions to help develop their problem-solving skills. In addition, children use sign language and link their play to real-life experiences. Staff actively encourage children to be imaginative, creative and curious. For example, children express their own ideas and thoughts and act out their own stories as they take part in role play. Parents receive good information to keep them updated about their children's activities, opportunities and daily routines. They are very complimentary about the provision. Parents make comments, such as, 'The setting has exceeded my expectations' and, 'I admire the commitment from staff'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

A high priority is placed on children acquiring an excellent awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe. They learn the importance of first aid, stranger danger and road safety. Furthermore, staff arrange frequent visits from people who help the community, including police officers. Very good links have been established with the local community. Children gain a strong understanding of the world and they explore different cultures, traditions and festivals. They recognise and are respectful of each other's differences and similarities. Staff promote healthy lifestyles extremely well. They provide children with a varied range of nutritious snack options, and allergies and dietary requirements are constantly met. Children are supported to talk about the benefits of healthy eating and have many opportunities to be active and energetic. For instance, they thoroughly enjoy extending their physical skills as they practise using the hula hoops and play group games, such as skittles. Staff consistently encourage children to follow effective hygiene practices and to develop their self-help skills. Children are very independent and easily complete small tasks for themselves. They share, take turns, listen attentively to staff and are exceptionally well mannered.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY454246
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	1066390
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 11
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Little Acorns Out of School Club Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP532019
Date of previous inspection	1 May 2013
Telephone number	07769271066

Little Acorns Out of School Club Limited was registered in 2012. The setting employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The breakfast club opens Monday to Friday from 8am until 9am. The after-school club opens on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3.15pm until 6pm, during school term time.

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