

Little Wombatz

Soham Scout & Guide Community Hall, Recreation Ground Fountain Lane Soham,
Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5PL



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

27 January 2017

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 manager is totally committed to raising the quality of the care and education for all children. Everyone concerned with the pre-school contributes to the self-evaluation procedure and the action plans for improvements are well targeted to bring about change. Children share their opinions by voting for favourite activities or snacks, boosting their sense of community and belonging.
- Staff provide children with a stimulating learning environment where they can confidently select their own playthings and activities. Staff understand how children learn through play.
- Professional management systems are very good. The manager has high expectations of staff and puts measures in place to continually improve their teaching skills and knowledge.
- The manager uses her high level of knowledge and skills to monitor the progress children make. She meticulously analyses data and, consequently, is able to swiftly identify gaps in children's progress. Focused support for older children or groups of children is well planned and brings about good progress from their starting points.
- Staff recognise the importance of children feeling safe and secure at the pre-school. They get to know children before they start and ensure their first experience away from home is a positive and happy one. Parents say they are reassured by this sensitive approach and are pleased with children's progress even after a short time attending.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are a few occasions when staff do not consistently support the learning needs of the youngest children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide consistent support for the learning needs of the youngest children.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff understand their responsibilities for keeping children safe both inside and when playing outside. They are vigilant about the security of the premises and know the procedure to follow in case of an emergency evacuation. When outside, staff are mindful of possible risks in the area and give children clear guidance about where they can or cannot play. The manager only recruits and retains suitable staff. Several are undertaking further qualification training and professional development opportunities are actively encouraged. For example, staff attend speech and language training alongside parents to promote a coordinated approach to children's support. Partnerships with other providers and schools are strong. These are, particularly, beneficial when children attend more than one provision or transfer to school or nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children arrive happily at the pre-school and are soon immersed in activities and games that interest them. They contentedly learn to manipulate dough and use tools and cutters to form the material into the desired shapes. In doing so, children strengthen small muscles and develop good hand-to-eye coordination. Staff teach children to identify numbers during exciting target games or help them search for examples in the water tray. Children are keen to keep trying in their pursuits and are well rewarded with praise when they achieve their goal. Children happily read stories to their friends and readily talk about the pictures they can see. They have opportunities to make marks and practise early writing. Staff use their observations well to assess children's progress and plan for their next steps in learning. They readily share information with parents and exchange ideas of how best to support learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to become aware of healthy lifestyles and encourage them to be physically active, especially during outside play. Children enjoy nourishing snacks and when eating their packed lunches, they understand that savoury foods should be eaten first. Children are developing their independence well and undertake tasks, such as putting on coats and shoes and washing hands before eating meals. The environment is set up daily by staff. They provide a wide range of good quality toys and resources that help to support children's overall development effectively.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are active, inquisitive and develop the skills needed for their next stage in learning. They behave well at the pre-school and happily play with staff and friends alike. Children's communication development is supported well and because of this, they quickly gain confidence in their speaking abilities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497309
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1035112
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	40
Number of children on roll	53
Name of registered person	Little Wombatz Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535113
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07753662109

Little Wombatz was registered again in 2015. The pre-school employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including the manager with early years professional status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 2.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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