

Little Buddies Pre School

The Arkell Scouting And Community Centre, Upton Grange, Chester, CH2 1BG



Inspection date	30 January 2017
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

- Staff provide a broad and well-organised range of activities based on children's interests. As a result, children show sustained levels of concentration, as they stay focused on their task.
- The manager and staff place a clear priority on ensuring children are happy and enjoy their time at the pre-school. Staff effectively promote children's emotional well-being. The children have opportunity to develop close relationships with their key person.
- Regular risk assessments are carried out by staff both indoors and out. This ensures that potential hazards are identified and removed and the environment remains safe for the children.
- The manager reviews the quality of the pre-school regularly to help identify areas of improvement. She reflects on practice to ensure outcomes for children continue to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the best possible use of their time and resources, to initially support children who speak English as an additional language.
- Staff have yet to establish a successful two-way flow of information with other early years settings, to help ensure there is continuity in children's care and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen strategies to ensure children who speak English as additional language are fully supported in their transition into the provision
- develop two-way communication with other early years settings that children attend, to support a joint approach to their learning and development.

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 pre-school 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.

Inspector

Lesley Bott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. They know what action they would take if they had concerns about a child's welfare. Staff and management understand the importance of monitoring children's non-attendance. The manager provides a thorough induction process for new staff to review their training through ongoing supervision. She encourages professional development with all staff to ensure continuous improvement in teaching. Regular monitoring of children's progress helps staff to identify where children are in their development. Accurate planning helps staff ensure children receive the support they need to make progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well. They work well with parents to gather information about their child prior to starting. Staff identify children's starting points, their interests and any concerns they may have about their development. Staff provide a good range of experiences covering all areas of learning and based on children's interests. For example, some children's interest in rockets has led to them learning about space. Staff place a clear priority on providing plenty of opportunities for children to freely explore, investigate and use their senses during activities. Children show high levels of involvement as they get messy with the 'moon dust' made from shaving foam and glitter. Mathematical language is skilfully promoted as children are encouraged to discuss weight and shape with stones in the sand. Staff plan activities that engage and motivate children's play. Children excitedly use tweezers to find hidden gems in coloured rice.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff ensure children benefit from healthy lifestyles. Children make healthy choices, tasting different fruits at snack time. They enjoy eating their sandwiches in the shape of a star or an astronaut as they link this back to their topic about space. All children behave well and show kindness towards each other. For example, they take turns with toys and resources and learn to value the needs of their friends well. Staff create opportunities for children to learn how to be independent from a young age. They learn how to feed themselves finger foods, as they gain confidence in their good physical coordination skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and develop the key skills needed in preparation for school. Children show they are effective communicators. They join in with 'show-and-tell' sessions at circle time confidently telling their friends about what they have bought from home. Children's understanding of print is well promoted by staff. Children correctly identify their name cards when they arrive to self-register themselves into the pre-school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496743
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	1035195
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	20
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	Joanna Maton
Registered person unique reference number	RP907148
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07976455562

Little Buddies Pre School was registered in 2015. The pre-school employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or 5. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 12.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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