

Smartie Pants Preschool

Lincoln Carholme Childrens Centre, Blenheim Road, Lincoln, LN1 1PU



Inspection date	27 February 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

- There are good systems in place for working in partnership with parents and other professionals. These links make a very positive contribution towards the continuity and support children receive in their care and learning.
- Staff effectively adapt activities for children who speak English as an additional language, so that they can help children progress in their learning.
- Teaching is consistently good. Staff understand the different ways in which children like to learn. They plan activities that meet children's individual needs well.
- Effective links have been developed with the schools that children will move on to. Transition arrangements for children starting school and new children starting the pre-school are effective in meeting their emotional needs.
- Leadership and management are good. The provider, manager and staff team work well together. The effective organisation and deployment of staff results in children's safety and welfare needs being met well.
- Children are confident, happy and independent. They seek out staff for comfort and support, indicating that they feel secure and trust the adults who care for them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide a wide enough range of resources and equipment to fully extend the learning opportunities for children who prefer to learn outdoors.
- On occasion, staff do not allow children enough time to think and respond to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities and challenge to extend the learning opportunities for children who prefer to play and learn outdoors
- give children the time they need to think about and respond to the questions staff ask.

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 pre-school manager and provider. He 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

Peter Towner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider and manager lead a dedicated team of staff who work hard to provide good quality learning opportunities for children. Supervision meetings take place regularly, helping to support staff in their roles. All staff are well qualified and several attend higher level courses to extend their knowledge of child development. The impact of this can be seen in the positive developments made since registration, such as changes to planning and observation systems, in order to better support children's individual learning. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Thorough recruitment procedures and ongoing checks help to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a good awareness of how to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All staff have a clear understanding of how children learn. They are enthusiastic and responsive to children's needs. Staff work with parents to help children who are learning to speak English as an additional language to close any gaps in their communication skills effectively. They use a variety of methods, including pictures and signs, to support their understanding. Staff promote mathematics well. Children have many opportunities that help to develop their counting skills. Their daily routines include rhymes and counting songs, and opportunities to use mathematical ideas in naturally occurring situations. As an example, younger children are supported to recognise colours, patterns, shapes and sizes during their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a welcoming environment where all children blossom and thrive. They demonstrate they are happy and emotionally secure in the pre-school. Children move confidently throughout the room and outside, selecting their individual play activities. Staff come alongside them and demonstrate that they value their achievements, frequently giving them praise. Independence is promoted well. Children enjoy having the responsibility of helping themselves to cheese sticks and fresh fruit. They pour their own drinks and clear away their things when they have finished their snacks. All children behave well and show care and respect to other children and staff. They play harmoniously together, sharing toys and taking turns. Good attention is paid towards helping children understand how to take good care of their own needs. Handwashing routines are managed effectively. Children have good opportunities to explore the wider world and strengthen their understanding of people's similarities and differences.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. Relationships between staff, children and their peers are very good. Staff support children very well to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their learning. Children become confident individuals and develop good social skills. They understand the importance of sharing, taking turns and respecting other people's feelings. Children are well prepared for their future learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484077
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	997441
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 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Sarah Jayne Fenton
Registered person unique reference number	RP515931
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07711809559

Smartie Pants Preschool was registered in 2014. The pre-school employs six members of staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate qualification at level 2, two at level 3 and three at level 4. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 8.45am until 12.15pm. The pre-school offers funding for early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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