

Little Hands Nursery School - Linton & Bartlow

Three Hills Farm, Bartlow, CAMBRIDGE, CB21 4EN



Inspection date	1 March 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The provider and the very well-qualified manager motivate the staff team well. Staff are supported to further their skills through professional development and qualification courses. They strive for outstanding quality throughout the nursery.
- Children learn about how to care for living creatures and the natural environment. They are very careful as they handle the guinea pig. They enjoy learning about seasonal changes as staff make excellent use of the garden and the surrounding countryside.
- Children are making very good progress with their speech and language development. Older children chat, discuss and debate through play and adult-planned activities. Younger children find their voices through singing. They enthusiastically join in as staff sing their favourite songs.
- Parents and grandparents speak highly of the staff. They talk about how their children are cared for superbly and, especially, enjoy being outside. They also talk about how the staff support younger siblings and families, particularly when they are going through difficult times.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, some members of staff do not help children to learn how they can find out information for themselves on topics that interest them, such as dinosaur names.
- Staff do not provide many opportunities for children to show an interest in technological toys or learn how to operate simple technological equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's understanding of the world, providing them with more opportunities to find things out for themselves
- provide further opportunities for children to develop their skills when using a range of technological toys and equipment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the day and held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, information about the self-evaluation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked the evidence showing the suitability of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff know the possible signs of abuse and when and where to refer any concerns they may have about a child in their care. The provider has established robust recruitment procedures to help ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff's performance is monitored through supervision meetings and targeted training. Staff in the baby room talk about the positive impact training has had on their understanding of how young children develop. The manager and the staff are highly reflective on their practice. They are currently reviewing the use of the outdoor area to make it into an even more effective learning environment for children of all ages.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide interesting and challenging activities that match children's interests both inside and outdoors. Children spend time exploring dough, sand and mud. They use their imaginations well as they talk about what they are making, such as pizza and chocolate cake. Staff support learning as they provide them with extra resources, such as water and different shape cutters. Younger children eagerly explore their environment. Staff support children's developing physical skills by helping them to stand to look out of the low-level window. Staff introduce babies to numbers and counting as they count how many pegs they place in a cup and how many cups they stack up. Staff observe what children know and can do and use this to plan for their individual next steps in learning. They regularly share development information with parents and find out about children's achievements at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy the excellent outdoor area. From the moment, they arrive at the nursery, many children choose to be outside. Staff provide a wealth of activities and resources. They are highly aware that some children prefer to learn outdoors, so they ensure they can access all areas of learning. Children play cooperatively, sharing toys and taking turns. They are extremely confident and self-assured. As they jump off tyres, children describe their jumps as, 'Amazing'. Babies settle at the nursery very quickly. They swiftly form strong bonds with their key person. Staff know their individual needs very well and give time and attention to meet these each day. Children discuss which foods are healthy and talk about only having cake as a treat. They are very independent as they learn how to attend to their own care needs.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make at least good progress. From an early age, children show their developing literacy skills. For example, children under two years of age hold pencils correctly and make a range of marks on paper. Pre-school children enjoy discussing rhyming words as they listen to stories. Children show an interest in numbers and quickly begin to recognise numbers between 10 and 20. Children are rapidly gaining the skills they need for the move to their next stage of learning or on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY485632
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1002450
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Little Hands Nursery Schools Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902631
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01223 897945

Little Hands Nursery School - Linton & Bartlow was registered in 2015. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager who holds early years teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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