

Little Mice Day Nursery Limited

Little Mice Day Nursery, 12 Bury Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1HA



Inspection date

17 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Since taking over the nursery, management has made many positive changes for the benefit of children attending. The nursery now provides care aimed specifically for children aged two years and under. Children benefit from a well-resourced environment particularly designed around the needs and interests of children in this age group.
- Management and senior staff are good role models for their staff team and aspire to promote the highest levels of achievement for all children.
- Children are happy and well settled. They form close relationships with staff and welcome their involvement in their play. Staff provide children with a stimulating range of age-appropriate activities. For example, children enjoy using their senses to explore and investigate different objects and materials.
- Key persons work closely with parents to follow children's routines from home. The nursery uses a range of effective methods to keep parents fully involved in their children's learning.
- The nursery makes good use of outings within the local community. Children benefit from visits to local amenities to extend their experiences and provide physical play opportunities in the fresh air.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff do not use consistently high-quality teaching skills to more deeply engage and motivate children and extend their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring of staff practice to provide them with more precise feedback, in order to help them raise quality of their teaching to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She also accompanied staff and children on a walk to a local farm museum.
- The inspector spoke with staff during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and also took account of their written comments.

Inspector

Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Management places a strong focus on ensuring all staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. Staff are knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect. They are confident about the action to take if they have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child in their care. Rigorous recruitment and induction procedures ensure staff are suitable and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities. Management provides staff with regular supervision meetings to review their practice and identify future training needs. Self-evaluation is used effectively to identify further areas for development. The management team monitors the progress of different groups of children to alert them to any emerging gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children in their care well. They get down to their level and are very sensitive and caring in their interactions. Staff follow children's interests and comment on their discoveries. For example, staff observe children's fascination in turning torches on and off. They encourage children to shine their torch on the wall and talk to them about what they can see. Staff repeat back what children say to help them learn the correct pronunciation of words. Staff accurately identify children's stage of development and plan suitable activities to promote their next stage of learning. Staff introduce simple mathematics in age-appropriate ways. For example, they talk to the children about the number and size of the different animals they see at the nearby farm museum. They gently reassure children who are nervous about the animals and share their excitement in seeing the rabbits. Children respond well to staff's good use of praise and encouragement, and demonstrate a strong desire to make their needs known.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather meaningful information from parents to help them settle children into the nursery. Staff and parents share ongoing information about children's changing interests and needs to help them work together to promote children's good progress. Parents are very complimentary about the nursery. They praise the, 'Fantastic staff' and comment on the great communication and the excellent level of care. Staff use calm and consistent strategies to help children begin to understand that some things belong to others and some things are theirs. Children's move on to the next stage of their learning is carefully planned to ensure they settle easily in their new environment. Staff are careful to respect children's individual dietary needs and preferences. Children learn to follow good hygiene routines from a young age.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and develop the key skills that prepare them well for their next stage of learning. Children are learning to take turns and take account of the feelings of others. They are becoming confident and develop independence. Children enjoy age-appropriate physical challenge and are prepared to have a go at new experiences. They are learning to express their own preferences and opinions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY490368
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1014531
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 2
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Little Mice Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534669
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01449 774800

Little Mice Day Nursery Limited was registered in 2015. It is one of a group of nurseries privately owned by Sunhill Daycare (Europe Ltd). The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 3 to level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-year-old children.

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