

Little Leaves Pre-School

New Ash Green Youth Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8JY



Inspection date	30 March 2017
Previous inspection date	3 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 fully understands her responsibilities and leads the staff team well. She has a sound overview of the progress children make. The special educational needs coordinator is knowledgeable. All children and their families are offered the help and support they need to ensure no child falls behind. All children make good progress.
- Staff are warm and friendly. They form strong relationships with the children and get to know them very well. Staff provide good levels of care to help children feel secure.
- The environment is welcoming. Freely accessible resources help to support children's independence. For example, they confidently select their own toys and activities.
- When children start at the pre-school, staff work with parents to establish what children know and can do. Parents compliment the quality of care their children receive.
- The manager and staff regularly carry out risk assessments to check the suitability of the environment and equipment to ensure that potential hazards to children are minimised.
- Children are happy and play calmly. They are kind to each other and behave well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not adapt daily experiences and routines to the needs of children at different stages in their learning.
- Staff do not make the most of all opportunities to extend children's understanding of others from different backgrounds or cultures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure experiences and daily activities meet the individual needs of children at different stages of learning
- provide further opportunities for children to understand about different cultures or backgrounds.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children as they played and took part in daily routines.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and the manager at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's profiles, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision and a wide range of other documents, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector
Claire Nunn

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager successfully supports staff, who work well together and are enthusiastic about their roles. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff keep up to date with changes in safeguarding legislation. They have a good understanding of how to report any concerns about children's welfare. Recruitment and induction procedures are effective in checking staff are suitable. The manager has led improvements to increase the progress children make. For instance, changes to the system to record children's progress mean that staff now have good-quality information that informs the next steps children need in their learning. An effective programme of professional development for staff helps to improve the quality of teaching and outcomes for children. Staff regularly update and refresh their knowledge and skills to continually extend their practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff are skilled, well qualified and confident in their teaching. They play fun and engaging activities that successfully cover all areas of learning and take account of children's interests and abilities. Children's progress is carefully monitored. Gaps in learning are identified and swift action is taken to close them. Staff use the expertise of other professionals, such as speech therapists, to help support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills. For instance, they enjoy playing with balls and hoops outside in the fresh air. Children enjoy sharing books and happily join in with repeated phrases and verses. Good support for parents helps to encourage their children's learning at home. Children communicate effectively. For instance, staff repeat words and sentences back to children to encourage good pronunciation.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop a strong sense of belonging. They approach staff happily for comfort and reassurance, and receive plenty of individual adult attention from their key person. Warm relationships between all children and staff help to ensure that children are confident and happy. Staff talk kindly and respectfully to children, and help them to understand rules and boundaries well. Children enjoy being physically active and have regular opportunities for outdoor play. Children learn about hygienic practices. For example, they wash their hands before eating.

Outcomes for children are good

All children learn a good range of skills which helps prepare them for the next stage of their education, including school. Children are eager and motivated to explore and learn new skills. They are interested in numbers, letters and the sounds they make.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127211
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1085728
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	26
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	Little Leaves Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522612
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2015
Telephone number	01474 872 441

Little Leaves Pre-School registered in 1988 and operates from the youth centre in New Ash Green, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to midday during term time. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff, four of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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