

# Little Acorns Nursery

Camelford Hall, Clease Road, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9PL



## Inspection date

19 April 2017

Previous inspection date

23 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not support staff effectively enough to extend their skills and knowledge to help influence secure learning outcomes for children.
- Teaching standards are not consistently strong. Some staff do not make the most of organised activities that help to extend children's thinking skills or help develop their understanding of solving problems and predicting outcomes.
- Self-evaluation is not effective. Although the manager identifies weaknesses within the setting, such as staff performance, she does not take concerted action to make improvements.

### It has the following strengths

- Children develop sound physical skills. Children are active throughout the day and play with a variety of equipment in different environments, such as outside.
- Children learn to be imaginative. They enjoy pretend and role play, which helps them to make sense of their experiences and the world around them.
- Children are happy and form close bonds with staff and other children, helping to develop positive social skills.
- The manager recruits new staff safely, such as completing suitability checks and obtaining references.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

### To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	<b>Due Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ develop procedures to support staff more effectively, extend their skills and raise teaching standards</li> </ul>	03/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ improve the quality of teaching so staff deliver the best possible outcomes for children in all areas of learning</li> </ul>	03/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ notify Ofsted of changes to circumstances as soon as possible and no later than 14 days after the change occurs</li> </ul>	03/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ inform Ofsted of the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of members of the committee.</li> </ul>	03/05/2017

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

- improve evaluation methods to identify all areas of weakness across the setting and plan for continuous improvements that reflect positively on outcomes for children.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing with others, independently and with staff.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager about how she monitors staff practice and plans for children's learning and development.
- The inspector sampled a small range of documents including policies, children's records and staff qualification certificates.

### Inspector

Tristine Hardwick

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement**

Partnerships with parents are well developed. Staff exchange appropriate information with parents so they can work together to provide consistent care and learning arrangements, such as toilet training. Similarly, staff form secure partnerships with other professionals. This helps them to provide specialised development opportunities for children. However, although staff attend mandatory training, such as safeguarding, they do not extend their skills sufficiently across all areas of learning. Similarly, arrangements to monitor all staff's individual practice are not effective. Together, these do not enable children to learn as much as they could, especially during organised activities, such as thinking about and predicting outcomes for simple scientific experiments. The provider has not informed Ofsted about changes to the committee members or opening times, as required. This is also a breach of the requirements of the Childcare Register.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement**

Overall, children enjoy their time at nursery and enjoy the activities prepared by staff. The manager and staff plan learning experiences well and tailor them for individual children's learning suitably. However, some staff do not use these activities enough to support children's learning needs or provide enough challenge across all areas of development. Some staff use good teaching skills and model how to be imaginative with craft materials. This helps children to learn to express themselves through art. The manager monitors children's progress suitably. She has developed procedures to help her identify and plan support for children's development.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement**

Weaknesses in the leadership and management do not fully support children's welfare. Despite this, staff use routines suitably to help support children's emotional development. For example, they offer a café-style snack system where children can eat as they become hungry. Staff praise and encourage children regularly, motivating children to persevere in their play and form positive self-esteem. Children are busy and have a wide variety of opportunities from which to choose. They behave well, showing they feel secure and settled at nursery.

### **Outcomes for children require improvement**

Children develop some skills for their future learning. They develop their language skills well, and some sign language. Children learn some simple mathematics, such as counting. Children build some understanding of the world around them and make imaginary trips into space. They enjoy listening to stories and concentrate well. Children learn to complete simple tasks, such as setting up their lunch, which helps to increase their independence.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	102788
<b>Local authority</b>	Cornwall
<b>Inspection number</b>	1088907
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	44
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Little Acorns Nursery at Camelford
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP520041
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	23 March 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	01840 212114

Little Acorns Nursery opened in 1980 and re-registered in 2006. It is located in Camelford, Cornwall. The nursery is open Monday to Wednesday from 8am to 5pm and Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. There are 10 members of staff who all hold an appropriate early years qualification. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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