

# Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd



Lancaster Lodge, Lancaster Way Business Park, ELY, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3NX

## Inspection date

22 May 2017

Previous inspection date

19 March 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

- Self-evaluation is accurate and ambitious. Leaders and managers strive to implement new ideas and improve the outcomes for children.
- Children build good bonds with their key person and the other adults and children around them. They feel safe and secure in this warm and homely nursery.
- Outdoor play experiences are a feature of the nursery. Children enjoy long periods outside in all weathers and enjoy interesting activities that cover all of the areas of learning.
- Children are taught well and make good progress in their development. Staff use observations and children's interests effectively to plan activities that closely match children's individual learning needs.
- Parents praise the nursery staff. They say they are made welcome and are involved well in all aspects of their children's development.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers' coaching and mentoring of staff does not yet drive the quality of teaching, and the outcomes for children, to an outstanding level.
- Opportunities for children to learn about their own community and other communities further afield are not frequent enough, to fully encourage children's understanding.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the supervision, coaching and mentoring of staff to focus more firmly on increasing their teaching skills to an outstanding level
- enhance the range of experiences that helps children to learn about their own community and other communities further away.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider, who also manages the nursery, another director and the deputy manager. Safeguarding arrangements were discussed.
- A range of documents were sampled, including the nursery's self-evaluation, evidence of staff suitability and training and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents during the inspection and looked at the results of surveys of parents' views.

### Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. There has recently been a close focus on child protection training. This has helped staff to become confident in their understanding of the procedures to follow if there are concerns about children's welfare. Managers know how to deal with an allegation against a member of staff. Recruitment of staff is thorough. Regular supervision meetings are used well to discuss any safeguarding issues and help to ensure staff's ongoing suitability. Staff are encouraged to complete training and improve their qualifications, to develop their practice. Staff give parents comprehensive information about the nursery and their children's achievements to keep them informed. They are also developing partnerships with schools and other settings.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well qualified staff team supports children well in all their activities. Young children are encouraged to test out new textures as they feel jelly and look for hidden items. Older children boldly use hammers to crack open blocks of ice and search for the dinosaurs within these. Staff join in children's imaginative play, for example, as they make pretend cakes from soil and sticks in the mud kitchen. Staff use enjoyable nursery songs and stories to help support children's listening and speaking skills. Activities, such as weighing and measuring, help children develop their mathematical skills. Children estimate quantity and recognise the numbers they need for their games. Young children make marks in paint and sand as they prepare for early writing.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's behaviour is good and they play harmoniously together. Older children are polite. They understand how to share and take turns with favourite toys. Staff are calm and purposeful with the children, sensitively helping them to deal with their emotions. Children enjoy nutritious home-cooked foods. Parents are asked for their preferences and allergies are well managed. Children are developing an understanding of risk, for example, as they assess the safety of the climbing trees. Parents settling their children into the nursery have flexible opportunities to visit and get to know their key person. Babies are nurtured and develop close bonds with the adults around them. Staff work particularly well with parents when children need additional help.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and develop the skills they need for their future learning. They form firm friendships and confidently engage with staff and other adults. Children successfully build on their independence, for instance, as they choose their own activities. They develop good practical skills. From an early age children learn to get ready for play outdoors and find their Wellington boots and coats.

## Setting details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>                   | EY458324  |
| <b>Local authority</b>                           | Cambridgeshire  |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                         | 1095414   |
| <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>                     | 0 - 4   |
| <b>Total number of places</b>                    | 62  |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>                | 70  |
| <b>Name of registered person</b>                 | Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd   |
| <b>Registered person unique reference number</b> | RP908015  |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>               | 19 March 2015   |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                          | 01353662808   |

Lancaster Lodge Childcare Ltd registered in 2013 and is privately owned. The nursery is open from 7.30am until 6.30pm each weekday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. The nursery provides funded early education sessions for children aged two, three and four years. There are currently 14 staff employed, including three directors of the company. Of these, 11 staff work directly with the children. The provider, who also manages the nursery, holds a relevant qualification at level 4, eight staff have qualifications at level 3 and two have qualifications at level 2.

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