

Little Buds Pre-School

The Community Centre, Brickfields Avenue, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7RX



Inspection date	13 June 2017
Previous inspection date	13 June 2014

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

- Teaching is good. Staff skilfully interact with children to extend and challenge their play and learning. Children make good progress.
- Staff are positive role models. They offer praise to children and encourage them to be friendly, kind and considerate to each other. This supports children to develop their understanding of good behaviour.
- Staff form strong relationships with the children. They know them well and take account of their individual needs. This means children settle quickly into the pre-school and feel secure.
- The managers demonstrate a strong commitment to providing high-quality care and education. They regularly evaluate the pre-school, which helps them to identify areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Professional development is not precisely focused to offer all staff the opportunity to develop their skills to the highest standard.
- Occasionally, the monitoring of assessments of some children is not rigorous enough to consistently secure the best possible outcomes for all children.
- Staff sometimes overlook opportunities to extend children's creative skills to higher levels.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the arrangements for professional development to support all staff, to raise their practice to the highest level
- embed monitoring practices to ensure that the learning and progress children make is clearly understood by all staff, so they can target the teaching even more precisely
- enhance opportunities for children to more fully develop their creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff are clear about their roles to safeguard children. They understand the correct procedures to follow should a child protection concern arise. In addition, they know what to do if an allegation is made against a member of staff. This helps to keep all children safe and well protected. The managers and staff team work well together. They provide a consistent approach to every child's care and learning. Staff are deployed effectively which means that children are supervised closely as they play. Managers provide strong leadership for the staff. They work alongside the staff and they are starting to consider more robust ways to supervise and manage staff performance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They provide stimulating environments giving children plenty of choice in their play. Staff get down to the children's level and join in their play experiences. Children have access to various activities and resources to help them develop their mathematical skills. For example, staff support children to weigh the dolls in the role-play baby clinic and use tape measures to measure their length. Children are enthusiastic and engaged as they excitedly note down their findings using pens and clipboards. Staff have a good knowledge of their key children and are confident to talk about their development. They keep parents well informed about their children's progress. This helps to promote continuity of care.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a warm, welcoming environment and children settle quickly. They help children to learn about how to keep themselves safe. For example, before going outside, they talk to children about wearing their hats to protect them from the sun. Staff enable children to manage a few safe risks. For instance, they supervise children well as they use the outside play area. Staff teach children about healthy eating and to manage their own personal hygiene routines. For example, children wash their hands before snack time to support their growing independence. Behaviour is good. For example, children work cooperatively together to help tidy the toys away.

Outcomes for children are good

All children achieve well and make good progress from their starting points. They enjoy good relationships with the staff and each other, and develop good social skills. Children are active and independent learners and are inquisitive to try new things. Children enjoy whole-group activities. They enthusiastically join in with familiar action rhymes during singing sessions. They develop confidence and high levels of self-esteem. All children acquire positive skills and attitudes that help towards successful future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251681
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1087711
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Little Buds Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910852
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2014
Telephone number	01638 665219

Little Buds Pre-School opened in 1990. The pre-school is run by a voluntary committee. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two at level 2. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 9am to 4pm.

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