

Little Rays Outdoor Learning Pre-School, Forest School And Out Of School Clubs

Godalming Town Fc, Wey Court, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3JE

Inspection date	3 October 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

- Staff provide a wide range of exciting activities that support children's learning, most of which take place outdoors. Staff know the children very well.
- Staff quickly establish close relationships with children. They warmly welcome children when they arrive, including children who have just started to attend. Staff give children lots of individual attention and reassurance. Children settle easily and feel secure.
- Staff complete additional first-aid training that successfully develops their confidence to keep children safe. They supervise children well at all times and support them to take risks within safe limits that provide challenge. For instance, during forest school, children independently use a rope attached to trees to climb up steep muddy banks.
- Since registration, the owner and manager have worked closely with staff to evaluate and improve children's learning in the outdoor classroom. It is now an exciting and stimulating environment that supports children's good understanding of the world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The inspector observed forest school and after-school club activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve partnership with other early years provision that children attend to further promote continuity of learning
- improve staff awareness of additional opportunities they can use to engage with children and extend their learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed forest school and after-school club activities.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager at forest school.
- The inspector talked with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector checked a sample of documentation and discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Catherine Greenwood

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. They take appropriate action to safeguard children's welfare. The owner and manager constantly risk assess every aspect of the provision and activities. They share this information with staff to ensure children's supervision and safety. The manager and another member of staff use knowledge gained from forest school training to help coach and support staff. The owner and manager regularly share information with staff about children's progress. They closely monitor children's assessment records to identify that children are reaching typical levels of development. Staff help parents to seek involvement from outside agencies if children need extra help to reach typical levels of development. Staff work effectively in partnership with parents to observe, assess and support children's good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff set challenges that extend children's learning effectively overall. For example, they encourage children to search for and count conkers they find in the forest undergrowth. Staff support children's physical development well. Children learn to swing from tyres and hammocks suspended from trees and to use real tools safely. In the out-of-school club, children jump between car tyres, play games of football and walk along low-level wooden beams. Staff encourage children to investigate the features of living things. For instance, together they look at insects found in the forest. Children use underwater viewers to watch fish, frogs and water oysters develop in a pond they have helped to build.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff make sure children fully understand and cooperate with the safety rules. Children are well behaved, listen attentively and cooperate with staff instructions. Staff are positive role models for children. They patiently explain to children how to do things and give them time to achieve things by themselves, such as using tools and putting on their outdoor clothing. Children are physically active throughout the day and have lots of fresh air. Staff set up tarpaulins to provide shelter during forest school activities. If the weather is cold, staff and children use the forest fire to heat milk to drink. Staff also organise lots of extra physical games that keep children active and warm. Staff successfully support children to build their self-confidence. Children develop good friendships and social skills and help others during activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for their future and starting school. They develop a good understanding of the world. They are enthusiastic learners and gain the confidence to have a go at new activities. For instance, they eagerly learn to whittle sticks and to make and light fires safely. Children develop good pre-writing skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY486974
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1015596
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Little Rays Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP534406
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07968067679

Little Rays Outdoor Learning Pre-School, Forest School and Out of School Clubs registered in 2015. It is located in Godalming, Surrey and operates from Monday to Friday during term time. The pre-school is open from 9.30am to 2.30pm, the breakfast club is open from 7am to 9am, and the after-school club is open from 3pm to 6pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 staff employed to work with the children, six of whom hold appropriate qualifications to level 2 and level 3.

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