

Little Owls Playgroup

Mackworth Youth And Community Centre, Prince Charles Avenue, Derby, DE22 4FN



Inspection date	19 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

- There are exceptional partnerships with parents and carers, who speak very highly about the trust and respect they have for staff. Staff take the time to speak to parents and carers to support any queries. Staff share a wealth of information that supports children's learning at home as well as wider family issues.
- The manager has a level 5 management qualification and makes very good use of this knowledge. There is highly effective organisation of staff to meet children's needs. There are high numbers of staff working with the children, and the manager, who is not included in ratios, oversees the smooth running of every session.
- A detailed and consistent induction ensures that all staff are familiar with the policies and routines, and the needs and areas of support of the children they are working with.
- Staff provide a strong focus on promoting a healthy lifestyle. Parents and carers comment on how effective the support is for helping children to recognise the importance of brushing their teeth.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The system to manage the performance of staff does not always thoroughly follow up any weaknesses in teaching or make sure that staff are fully clear about what they need to improve and how.
- Management does not consistently make the best possible use of information about children's progress to plan highly challenging activities that help children to make the highest rates of progress in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen systems to manage the performance of staff and provide more sharply focused support that raises the quality of teaching further
- make even better use of information about children's progress, to precisely plan activities and challenges that help them to make the best possible progress in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector discussed the procedures for evaluation and the priorities for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to parents and carers during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Justine Ellaway

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager is very knowledgeable, passionate and committed and has a clear vision to provide the best possible support for children and their families. She demonstrates a very strong capacity to improve the quality of the provision further. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are well equipped through induction and ongoing training to recognise and respond to child protection issues. The manager is proactive in ensuring that any concerns about children are properly dealt with. There is very good partnership working with other settings. For example, staff signpost parents and carers to relevant local services. Staff make good use of training to improve the quality of the provision. For example, they develop additional resources to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

There is a very good range of activities available throughout the session. Staff plan and provide adult-led, small-group activities to provide support for older children's next steps in learning and to help them to develop their readiness for school. For example, they help children to take turns in an activity where they recognise and match shapes. They provide consistent support to help children who speak English as an additional language to learn new words and to count. Staff working with younger children provide very good support. They give younger children opportunities to stretch and reach for toys. They encourage them to crawl and stand. Staff sing to younger children and they babble excitedly. The key-person system is strong. Staff are very clear about children's level of development, what they need to learn next and how to support this.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff make an enormous effort to set up an extremely attractive, well-resourced, inviting and exciting environment for when children arrive. Children are extremely happy to enter the setting and immediately engage in self-chosen play. There is very good support as children start at the setting, including home visits, tailored settling-in visits, consistency of staff and individual support. Staff also provide very good support for children to help them as they move on to school. For example, they agree a transitional plan for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff plan activities to help children to understand how to stay safe. For example, they invite visitors, such as the police community support officer, to talk to the children.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points and very good progress in some areas of learning, such as their personal, social and emotional development. Children are very enthusiastic to join in with play. They have very good concentration, for example, during group activities. They recognise the needs of the group and wait to have their turn, putting their hand up to respond to questions. Children develop the skills they need for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY492973
Local authority	Derby, City of
Inspection number	1026102
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Joanna Hardy
Registered person unique reference number	RP515117
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07758953596

Little Owls Playgroup registered in 2015. The playgroup employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and the manager holds an early years qualification at level 4. The playgroup opens from 7.30am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday during term time. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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