

Little Acorns New Earswick Ltd

Hartrigg Oaks, Lucombe Way, New Earswick, YORK, YO32 4DS



Inspection date

8 January 2018

Previous inspection date

3 July 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

- Parents are complimentary about the care and education their children receive. They say that their children 'love coming' and that their learning, such as their speech, 'has developed' since coming to the nursery.
- The manager and staff team continually reflect on their practice and work with children. They identify areas to prioritise for continuous improvement. The manager includes parents' views to help drive improvements to meet children's, and their families' needs.
- Staff recognise children's natural love of books and stories. For example, staff join children as they act out favourite stories using a variety of props and resources. Staff regularly read to individual or small groups of children. This helps to promote children's early reading skills.
- Staff provide a warm and nurturing environment to help children form strong emotional bonds. They treat all children as individuals with their own unique interests and help to promote their independence in all areas of their development

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff's questions are not probing enough and the learning possibilities from children's questions are not fully explored.
- Staff in the pre-school room do not always make the best possible use of relevant activities to help most-able children to increase their understanding of simple calculation.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of questions posed by staff and children to extend children's knowledge and understanding to the full
- focus more sharply on raising even further, the most-able children's achievements in simple calculation.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors 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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have good safeguarding knowledge. They know how to keep children safe from harm and whom to contact if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Recruitment procedures are robust, and inductions and ongoing discussions help to ensure that staff continue to be suitable for their roles. The manager monitors accidents and adapts the risk assessment to help to prevent further accidents. She supports ongoing professional development and regular meetings take place to share knowledge gained from training. This helps to improve outcomes for children. The manager meets with her team regularly to review the progress children are making, putting plans in place if additional support is required.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know all children well and work together effectively as a team to help them make good progress. They use planning in a flexible way that takes account of children's interests. Consequently, children are fully engaged, motivated in their play and enjoy learning. Children enjoy a variety of creative activities and show good imagination. Older children eagerly use props and other resources to re-enact a story about going to the moon. Overall, staff support children's communication and language skills well through singing, reading stories and discussions. Staff capture opportunities to build well on younger children's learning. For instance, babies enjoy spreading icing sugar onto their biscuits as staff extend their sensory play and support their small-muscle skills effectively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a flexible settling-in procedure and a key-person system is in place to help children feel secure. Children form close relationships with the staff and the other children and show that they feel safe and enjoy their time at nursery. Staff have created an environment which allows children the ability to make choices and to develop independence. When children wish to go outside, they know to get their hat and coat. Staff are positive role models and children learn to behave well. Children have opportunities to learn about their own safety. For example, they learn to use a knife at mealtimes and use scissors safely to cut paper. Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors, which promotes their health and well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They are learning the necessary skills they require for their future learning or their eventual move on to school. Children develop early writing skills through various ways. For example, some children begin to write their names with pencils, while others develop control over tools when they use toy hammers or build towers. Children use some mathematical language, such as 'more', 'big' and 'small' when they build structures. Babies and younger children develop good physical skills and gain confidence in their coordination skills. For instance, they practise walking and manipulate peg blocks as they stack them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY464798
Local authority	York
Inspection number	1105546
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	86
Name of registered person	Little Acorns New Earswick Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP532754
Date of previous inspection	3 July 2014
Telephone number	01904766866

The Little Acorns Day Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff, 15 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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