

Little Acorns Montessori Ltd

St Peters Hall, Hatchet Lane, Windsor, SL4 2EG



Inspection date	19 January 2018
Previous inspection date	26 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager is a truly exceptional leader. She has worked tirelessly with the dedicated staff team to evaluate the provision and to achieve excellence. For example, staff have continually adapted their teaching strategies to meet the needs of all children. They have introduced many exceptional resources that contribute to the highly stimulating environment where children thrive.
- Staff have extremely high expectations for all children. Rigorous observations and assessments very accurately identify what children need to learn next. Children have inspiring opportunities to experience new things and are extremely willing to learn new skills and to give things a go.
- Staff have exceptional relationships with children and their families. They value children as unique individuals and greet them in their home language. New children settle quickly, show high levels of confidence and eagerly explore the stimulating play areas.
- Staff are particularly skilled in helping children to learn to manage their feelings and behaviour. Children very rapidly develop the skills to understand other people's feelings and adapt their behaviour to suit.
- Staff have highly positive and trusting partnerships with parents. They listen extremely carefully to parents and quickly establish how to tailor high levels of individual support to help each child flourish.?

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the already excellent opportunities and range of learning experiences for those children who prefer to learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at various documents, including policies and procedures, risk assessments, staff training records, records for children and evidence of the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Jane Franks

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The inspirational manager supervises her staff team extremely closely. For example, high-quality coaching and training have had a significant impact on the quality of teaching. This is helping staff to support all children, including those children who are learning English as an additional language. All children gain excellent communication and language skills. The manager carries out a very detailed data analysis of children's progress and accurately identifies any emerging gaps in individual and groups of children. For example, the introduction of inspiring literacy activities has helped to motivate and challenge boys and maintain the highest levels of achievement. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding about the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child's welfare. They have established exemplary partnerships with other professionals. Staff use additional funding extremely well and are highly effective in supporting children and families.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The manager and staff know children exceptionally well. They use extremely effective strategies and techniques to capture children's interest in learning. For example, older children gain a clear understanding of letters and the sounds they represent. They learn rich language, for instance, when they busily create their scene ready for their Arctic adventure. Children re-enact their favourite stories with passion and enthusiasm. They engage in lively conversations and bring their stories to life. Children are extremely curious learners. For example, they delight in planting seeds and confidently make predications, such as how big to dig their hole. Staff provide outstanding support for children to work out solutions to problems. Children use trial and error, for instance, when they move a blockage from the water funnel.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have extremely strong bonds with staff. They feel safe and secure in the exceptionally warm and friendly environment. Children gain a very strong sense of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they very confidently use tools, such as hammers, safely. Children have a wealth of opportunities to develop their physical skills. For instance, they make their own decisions and use a variety of materials, such as planks and crates, to build igloos and climbing structures. Through meticulous self-evaluation, staff recognise the need to enhance outdoor learning opportunities even more.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children of all ages show exceptional mathematical skills. They solve simple calculations and eagerly experiment with capacity and weight. Children display extremely high levels of concentration and cooperation. They work together exceptionally well, solving problems, such as how to transport soil across the garden. All children, including those who receive additional funding, make excellent progress in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY469583
Local authority	Bracknell Forest
Inspection number	1069814
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	36
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Little Acorns Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532743
Date of previous inspection	26 March 2014
Telephone number	01344882942

Little Acorns Montessori Ltd opened in 1994 and re-registered in 2013. The nursery is located in Cranbourne village, near Windsor, Berkshire. The nursery is open term time only from 8.30am to 3pm, with a breakfast club offered from 8.30am to 9am. The nursery offers sessions from 9am to midday and from midday to 3pm. There is an optional lunch club between midday and 1pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs a manager with qualified teacher status. Five other staff work with the children, three of whom hold recognised early years qualifications.

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