

Little Owls Childcare Centre

Wells Road, Latcham, Wedmore, BS28 4SA



Inspection date 22 January 2018
Previous inspection date 7 May 2015

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

- The owner is passionate about and committed to her role. She works extremely well with the manager and staff to make improvements that benefit children and ensures they provide good-quality care and education for children.
- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They provide a range of stimulating and exciting learning opportunities. For example, children enjoy looking for birds using binoculars and making bird feeders. All children make good progress from their initial starting points.
- Staff are calm and caring. They speak to children in a friendly and nurturing manner. Children take turns and are kind to each other. Staff provide emotional support for babies. For example, they soothe babies, cuddling them to help them feel reassured.
- Partnerships with parents are well established and parents are complimentary about the care provided. Staff successfully involve them in their children's learning. For example, they invite parents in to regularly review learning and development, and offer suggestions for activities to continue children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to build on children's interests during adult-led activities, to encourage their continued engagement and extend their learning.
- Systems for supporting the professional development of staff are not targeted as well as possible, to raise the quality of teaching to a consistently high level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on supporting children's interests during adult-initiated activities
- strengthen staff supervision arrangements to focus more precisely on supporting staff to develop their teaching practice to a consistently high level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the quality of the interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.
- The inspector spoke to the managers, staff, children, and parents, and took account of their views.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including children's records, planning and assessment.
- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children.

Inspector

Linda Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The owner follows robust recruitment procedures to help ensure the suitability of staff. The manager and staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures and keep their knowledge up to date. They are confident with the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child. The manager and staff monitor children's progress closely to identify any gaps in development. They work with other professionals, when needed, to help children make good progress. The manager supports staff with their professional development. For example, all staff have received professional training to enable them to use a combination of verbal and non-verbal strategies to support the development of children's communication skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe and assess children's development regularly. They use this information well to plan for each child's next steps in learning. Overall, staff support children's communication and language skills well. For example, they encourage babies to babble and develop speech sounds, and they model new words to toddlers, such as 'bumpy' and 'crinkly'. Staff support children's early reading skills well. For example, babies develop an interest in books and toddlers enjoy listening to and taking part in storytelling sessions. Staff work with other professionals to provide a wide range of opportunities to enhance children's learning. For example, older children take part in a yoga activity. Staff provide activities to develop children's understanding of nature. For example, children engage enthusiastically in making a bird feeder and squeal excitedly when they see a bird while using binoculars to observe the paddock and surrounding fields.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very confident. They are curious about visitors and actively engage in conversation with both familiar and unfamiliar adults. Children have high self-esteem and show that they feel confident and happy. Children share, work together and develop the social skills they need for the next stage in education. Behaviour is good. Children learn about other communities. For example, displays show links with an orphanage in Kenya and a nursery in Japan. All children, including the babies, are encouraged to develop independence and learn simple hygiene routines.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in readiness for their future learning and the move on to school. They develop good mathematical skills. Staff encourage children to count and recognise numbers. Older children enjoy experimenting with colours, textures and patterns. They mix colours and identify that blue and yellow make green, and red and yellow make orange. Children are encouraged to make choices. For example, staff describe activities and invite children to decide which one they would like to do next.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY400784
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1094086
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	36
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Little Owls Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905952
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2015
Telephone number	01934 713 527

Little Owls Childcare Centre registered in 2009. It is situated in Wedmore, Somerset. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round, except bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs eight members of staff who work directly with children. Of these, one is qualified as an early years professional, one holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 7, one is qualified at level 6, one at level 5, and four staff hold an appropriate childcare qualification at level 4.

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