

Little Acorns Baby Unit And Day Nursery

184 Broadway, Yaxley, Peterborough, PE7 3NT



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

27 February 2018

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 have very warm and positive partnerships with parents. They keep them well informed about all aspects of children's care and learning. Parents praise staff for the loving attention given to their children.
- Children play in the nursery garden every day, in all weathers. They develop their physical skills well as they toddle across uneven ground and learn to clamber onto the climbing frame.
- Managers and staff form a close and cohesive team. They work with enthusiasm and have high aspirations for the nursery. Professional development is valued and the level of teaching is consistently good.
- Children's entry into the nursery is carefully managed to help them to build strong bonds with their key person. Staff work diligently to develop their understanding of children's individual needs and meet them well from the outset.
- Staff carry out regular assessments of children's development and effectively track their progress. They teach the basic skills well to ensure children are ready for the next stage of their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not have frequent opportunities to explore the community around them to help them develop their understanding of other environments.
- Activities led by adults are not always closely matched to each child's capabilities. In addition, some group activities are too lengthy for those children who find sitting and listening more difficult.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase children's opportunities to learn more about communities and other environments around them
- enhance the planning of group activities and those led by adults to take more account of each child's differing capabilities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff and their interactions with children to evaluate the quality of teaching and children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with parents and looked at written feedback to take account of their views.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and the owner of the nursery. She looked at relevant records, including evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers and staff are fully aware of current child protection issues. They attend regular training to update their knowledge. Staff are confident of the procedures to follow if there are concerns about a child's welfare. The owner implements thorough recruitment procedures to make sure staff are suitable to work with children. Managers provide ongoing support for staff through regular supervision and team meetings. Self-evaluation is effective in identifying areas for development. For example, staff are embedding the use of sign language to support young children's communication skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and provide varied experiences that help children to make good progress in their development. They work effectively with parents to plan for the next steps in children's learning. Staff help children to develop a sense of belonging. For example, they display photographs of children and their families where children can see and touch them. From an early age, children are encouraged to investigate a wide range of materials. They make marks in dough and enjoy exploring paints, glue and shredded paper. Staff sit with children to read stories and teach them new words. Children learn the different sounds musical instruments make and delight in shaking bells or tapping blocks. They enjoy new experiences, such as handling balloons or exploring the lights in the sensory room.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff nurture these young children well. They are attentive, playful and kind. Children have warm cuddles to reassure them and a quiet place to sleep when they need to. Staff pay good attention to hygiene routines and make sure children play in a clean, safe and secure environment. Children have plenty of space to move around as they learn to crawl and toddle. They have ample low-level resources to choose from and staff encourage children to make their choices independently. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals that take into account their dietary requirements. Staff sit with them to provide support and encourage good eating habits.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for the next stage of their learning. They develop independence as, for example, they feed themselves using appropriate cutlery. Children learn to play alongside each other and share their toys. Older children join in singing games and clap excitedly when they recognise their favourite nursery songs. Children move around the nursery confidently and demonstrate a warm affection for their carers. They begin to use their imaginations during simple role play, such as making pretend cups of tea.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY498401
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1037594
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	0 - 2
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Little Acorn Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901388
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01733244000

Little Acorns Baby Unit and Day Nursery registered in 2016 and is privately owned. The unit operates each weekday, all year round, except for public holidays and one week at Christmas. Session times are 8am to 5.30pm. Six staff work directly with the children. Of these, four hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2. The unit provides funded places for eligible two-year-old children.

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