

Little Acorns Private Day Nursery

279 Bolton Road, Atherton, MANCHESTER, M46 9HG



Inspection date

19 March 2018

Previous inspection date

26 July 2013

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

- Staff have a strong focus on safeguarding. They have a broad understanding and are able to implement effective procedures, to protect children from harm.
- Children have excellent opportunities to play and learn outdoors. They confidently pursue their own interests, as they happily explore and investigate the garden.
- Staff skilfully build on children's interests and re-shape activities to enhance children's learning.
- Staff work effectively as a team and children settle quickly. They benefit from secure attachments that promote their well-being and provide a foundation for their learning.
- Children are learning the importance of socially acceptable behaviour. They are eager to help and value friendships with their peers.
- Links with other relevant professionals are effective in developing a swift and shared approach to planning for children's individual needs.
- The manager is committed to further improving the quality of the provision. Parents, staff and children are actively encouraged to share their views and opinions. This helps to inform priorities and secure ongoing improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for continuous professional development are not always precisely focused or targeted, to consistently raise the quality of teaching to an even higher level.
- Staff do not always make the very best use of what they know about individual children when planning ways to help them reach the next steps 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:

- enhance the programme of professional development to raise the quality of teaching to the highest level for all staff
- sharpen the focus of teaching when planning and delivering activities to more specifically promote individual children's development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this had on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the local authority adviser, and spoke to the operations director and the company's area manager for quality and support.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of adults working in the nursery, looked at relevant documentation and discussed the nursery's plans for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to and took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Vickie Halliwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The provider follows robust recruitment and vetting procedures. Staff are alert to child protection issues and are able to implement local procedures to protect children from possible harm. They regularly review and update the risk assessment. The premises are well maintained, safe and suitable. The manager and deputy use their good knowledge, skills and expertise to guide, coach and support staff. They continuously monitor and review staff practice. Regular supervision helps staff to discuss training needs and the progress of their key children. The manager effectively monitors the progress of all children, to identify those who are at risk of falling behind and provide further support. Parents say they feel well informed about their child's learning and are very happy with the progress they make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of the wide range of resources, indoors and outdoors, to ignite children's interest in new experiences. The quality of teaching is good overall and staff support children's learning well. Staff use information gained from observation and assessment, to accurately assess children's level of development. They identify appropriate next steps in their learning, but do not always plan well enough to meet these needs. Staff have high expectations and provide a broad range of suitably challenging activities. They know individual children well. Teaching focuses particularly well on supporting children's personal development, their communication and language and mathematics. Staff fully embrace children's interests to support their learning. For example, confident staff seamlessly redirect a maths activity from the large plastic construction bricks to the small pebbles that attract the children's curiosity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children of all ages display a strong sense of belonging. Staff promote their physical health and well-being successfully. They settle young babies lovingly to sleep and quickly reassure them if they become upset. Staff are mindful of and responsive to babies individual routines. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals and snacks. They learn good table manners as they eat alongside their friends, and learn how to pour their own drinks and serve themselves. Children's physical skills are developing well.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and are developing the skills and attitudes they need for school. Children enjoy learning new skills. They are eager to test things out for themselves, within a safe and supportive environment. Children play with imagination and use a range of small tools with increasing skill. They communicate effectively and talk excitedly about the ice they have found, and agree how they can melt it. Older children become absorbed and think carefully, as they persevere to solve simple problems.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY330412
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	1132744
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 - 5
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	129
Name of registered person	Just Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900954
Date of previous inspection	26 July 2013
Telephone number	01942 896102

Little Acorns Private Day Nursery registered in 2006 and is owned by Just Childcare Limited. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays and one week at Christmas.

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