

Little Willows Day Nursery

Little Willows Day Nursery, Powlett Road, Bath, BA2 6QH



Inspection date

27 March 2018

Previous inspection date

27 August 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

- The management team works effectively to evaluate practice and improve the nursery. It outlines clear actions for improvements, which benefits the children.
- Children are well cared for by the friendly and attentive staff. The close relationships foster children's confidence and well-being. Staff take the time to get to know children and spend good-quality time supporting them in their activities.
- Staff use accurate observations and assessments to clearly identify the next steps in children's learning and build on what they already know. Children make good progress.
- Staff have effective partnerships with parents to meet children's needs and extend their learning. Staff liaise closely with external agencies to work well together to ensure all children get the support they need.
- Staff are kind and patient. They provide responsive additional support when children are struggling to understand expectations. Children behave well. They learn to take turns, play cooperatively and manage their emotions. This includes those who require particularly perceptive intervention and additional support.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support children to extend their understanding of the world and exploration with nature.
- At times, staff do not make the best use of the space for children in the two- to three-year-old age group, to limit distractions and fully develop children's concentration skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop children's exploration with nature further and evaluate the impact on the children's outcomes
- make the most of opportunities to fully engage children in the two- to three-year-old age group and develop their concentration skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all of the playrooms, the outside learning environment and conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider of the provision. She spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection when appropriate.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment and planning documentation, the setting's risk assessment and safety records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working within the setting, the provider's evidence of self-evaluation and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and by reading a number of comments on questionnaires and messages given to the manager.

Inspector

Rachel Howell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management and staff understand their responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm and abuse. They are vigilant at all times to the safety of the children and complete thorough risk assessments. The manager regularly observes staff practice, undertakes supervisory meetings and focuses closely on developing staff skills. She closely supports the designated roles of senior staff. She sources inspiring additional training for them, which they use to help develop good practice across the whole nursery, such as leading motivational behaviour management sessions. The manager and senior staff scrutinise children's progress and the effectiveness of the provision to ensure they meet children's changing needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff are skilled at stimulating children's interest, and their well-planned activities are enjoyable and support learning well. Staff use clear explanations and probing questions to extend children's learning effectively. For example, pre-school children are animated and engaged making a carrot cake, linked to their letter of the week. They help weigh out ingredients, recognising numbers on the measuring scales and the shape of items, such as eggs. Babies delight in exploring a range of stimulating and interesting everyday sensory objects. Staff are nearby to develop their curiosity and motivate babies to explore the different textures. For example, babies relish the feel of the soft bristles on a brush or the smoothness of a large pebble.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff follow babies' and children's individual needs and routines carefully to support their well-being. Young children show a good understanding of routine care practices. They confidently toddle off to find their shoes to get ready to go outside. Mealtimes promote children's independence well. Babies learn to feed themselves and older children develop their coordination skills using their knives and forks. Staff follow comprehensive systems to communicate clearly children's dietary needs with the team and ensure they support children's needs well. Children have access to a good range of equipment in the nursery gardens to develop their physical skills. Staff support them well to coordinate their movements, remind them of safe practices and encourage them to take on challenges. For example, young children enjoy using the little slides and baby swings, and older children excitedly bounce on the trampoline and learn to push themselves on a swing.

Outcomes for children are good

Children's communication skills are progressing well, including those who learn English as an additional language. Children develop their motor skills and early writing skills effectively. For example, younger children enjoy making marks with painting pens and chunky chinks. Older children learn to make marks for a purpose as they tick off the ingredients on the recipe they are following. Children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities are supported closely to reach their potential. Children gain good skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning and their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY413022
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	1071301
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	156
Name of registered person	Little Willows Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904264
Date of previous inspection	27 August 2014
Telephone number	01225 332296

Little Willows Day Nursery registered in 2010. The nursery employs 23 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 to 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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