

Little Owls Day Nursery

20 School Lane, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1LR



Inspection date	21 March 2018
Previous inspection date	21 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- Staff demonstrate exemplary skills in helping children form secure emotional attachments. The youngest children in particular form extremely close bonds with their key person. Children's transitions between rooms are carefully planned to meet both the children's and their family's needs. This results in minimal anxiety to children and their parents and ensures a smooth process.
- Teaching is excellent. Staff know children very well. They consistently observe and plan motivating learning experiences to help children make rapid progress. Planning of activities closely reflects children's interests as they happen and is flexible to meet their constantly changing needs.
- Directors, managers and staff positively share and promote a joint passion and dedication to providing the best possible care and education for all children. All aspects of the nursery's practice is consistently reviewed and evaluated and includes staff, parents and children in the process. For example, the eldest children taste test potential new meals for the nursery menu and give feedback.
- Staff build excellent relationships with parents. Communication is constant and effective at keeping parents informed of all aspects of their children's care. Story café sessions, home learning bags and a book lending library are all enthusiastically welcomed by parents to enable them to be involved in their children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement plans for extending children's access to open ended resources in the outdoor play areas and evaluate the impact on children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching both indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the operations manager and the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with a director, operations manager, nursery manager and deputy manager. They looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Carly Mooney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Staff are highly trained and skilled in childcare. Their professional development and consistent monitoring of their practice is precisely focused on maintaining the high quality of teaching throughout the nursery. Training opportunities are embraced. Recently, managers have attended specialised outdoor training and have plans to implement further learning opportunities from this, such as den building and a designated nature garden. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Safeguarding is at the centre of all staff's practice and their knowledge is consistently reviewed. Staff confidently discuss the procedures they would take if they had a concern about a child or adults in the nursery. Robust recruitment procedures and regular checks of ongoing suitability ensures that all staff are suitable to work with children. The premises are safe and secure.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children show an excellent level of confidence and independence for their age. They play in a highly effective learning environment. Children's wishes, thoughts and ideas are consistently valued. For example, staff welcome a new yoga pose that the eldest children have devised themselves. They quickly ensure that the new pose is made into a yoga demonstration card to share with their friends. This helps children to feel special and raises their self-esteem. Young children show high levels of curiosity and an eagerness to learn. They are fascinated by items from a 'curiosity basket'. Staff consistently encourage the children to think and talk about what the item may be and how it could be used as they explore. Staff are highly skilled at recognising and taking advantage of children's play interests as they happen to further promote and extend their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's emotional well-being is highly prioritised. Staff are extremely kind and loving. They cuddle and soothe babies as they wake from a sleep or are fed from their bottle. During play staff maintain eye contact and make babies giggle as they sing and play with balloons. Children show very good familiarity with the routines and are learning to become highly independent from a young age. Busy periods, such as meal times are calm and relaxed. Children are consistently busy and occupied, resulting in excellent behaviour. Older children know how to share and wait their turn. Outdoor play opportunities are plentiful in the highly stimulating garden's which provide an excellent variety of learning opportunities.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Rigorous monitoring of children's learning helps to ensure that all, including those who are in receipt of additional funding are supported to make the best possible progress from their individual starting points. Children are very well prepared for their move to school. They are articulate and confident. Pre-school children are interested in letters and sounds and can 'write' recognisable letters of their name. Children form close friendships as they learn to respect and tolerate each other's differences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365260
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	1132949
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 - 4
Total number of places	100
Number of children on roll	205
Name of registered person	Little Owls Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535250
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2014
Telephone number	01362 699700

Little Owls Day Nursery was registered in 2003. The nursery employs 31 members of childcare staff. Of these, 27 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2-6, including one with early years qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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