

Little Stars Day Nursery

Little Stars Day Nursery, Buchanan Centre, Capper Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge,
CB25 9LY



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

12 April 2018

3 March 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

- Children form warm and secure bonds with their key person and all members of staff. Babies smile with delight as they enjoy their cuddles and older children welcome their sensitive interaction in their play.
- All children are curious individuals who are keen to learn as they eagerly engage in the stimulating experiences that staff organise. Babies use their senses to explore the texture of foam and wet soil with their hands. Children learn about life cycles. They are fascinated as they watch chicks and ducklings hatch from their eggs.
- Staff form strong partnerships with parents. They keep them fully informed of children's good progress. Parents describe staff as professional. Information evenings for parents provide ideas to help support their children's care and learning at home.
- The management team is reflective and regularly evaluates the provision it offers. Their commitment helps them to drive forward identified areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not share precise information about children's ongoing achievements with staff from all other settings that children attend to fully support continuity in their learning.
- Staff do not fully support children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language and enhance their speaking skills.
- Occasionally, younger children are not given enough time to think about and respond to the staff's enthusiastic questioning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with staff from all other settings that children attend
- strengthen opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in the nursery
- provide more opportunities for children to enhance their thinking and speaking skills as they formulate answers and respond to questions posed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities 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 one of the managers.
- The inspector held a meeting with the joint managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff demonstrate a good understanding of how to identify any children who may be at risk of harm. They know the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The management team successfully supports staff's professional development. They hold individual supervision meetings with staff to discuss their performance. Staff visit other nurseries to share good practice and receive good training opportunities. The joint manager thoroughly monitors children's progress, including specific groups of children. Swift action is taken to address and close any gaps in children's learning. Staff work in close partnership with other professionals to effectively support and help children who have special education needs and/or disabilities to make good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff consistently respond to babies' babbles. This helps them to learn the pattern of speech. Babies excitedly ring bells of different tones to explore the different sounds that they make. Younger children develop the small muscles in their hands in preparation for writing. They persevere using large tweezers to pick up pieces of pasta and transfer them from one cup to another. Children positively respond to staff's genuine praise. This motivates them to have a go at challenging activities. For instance, they concentrate completing complex puzzles. Older children use their vivid imaginations to create potions. They work out how to use large and small pipettes to suck up coloured water and glitter. Staff help children develop a good understanding of similarities and differences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are good role models. They help younger children to learn how to share resources. Staff provide children with good opportunities to assess their own risks. Older children learn to keep safe in the natural environment during weekly forest school sessions. Younger children use crockery within their role-play areas under the close supervision of staff. Regular access to the inviting outdoor areas help children to build good physical skills. Staff help babies to build stamina and strength in their legs in preparation for walking. Older children use large equipment to climb and balance.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are independent. Older children decide the appropriate clothing to wear, prior to going outdoors. They identify and name complex shapes, such as an 'octagon' and 'diamond'. Children confidently write their own name and link sounds to the letters that they represent. Younger children begin to use mathematical language, such as 'heavy' and 'light' as they handle real vegetables during their imaginative play. All children gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY469586
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1095484
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	124
Name of registered person	Little Stars Day Nursery Inc Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP908935
Date of previous inspection	3 March 2015
Telephone number	01223861911

Little Stars Day Nursery registered in 2013. It employs 28 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday, all year round. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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