

Inspection date

27 April 2018

Previous inspection date

30 September 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

- Leadership is strong. Leaders have high expectations for the provision. Their evaluation of the nursery is very effective. They develop well-focused action plans to help improve the provision and outcomes for children further.
- Staff develop warm relationships with the children. They support children to settle and feel secure. Children behave well. They learn to share and be considerate to each other.
- All children make good progress in their learning. Staff monitor children's progress regularly. The manager tracks the progress of different groups of children to close any gaps as quickly as possible through targeted learning.
- Children have good opportunities to develop their early literacy skills. For example, they use pens and paper to write down the names of children in the pre-school, so that they can make invitations to a party. This helps them to learn about writing for a purpose.
- Partnerships with parents and other settings that children attend are strong. Parents appreciate the detailed information they receive about their children's development and progress, and the regular meetings they have to discuss their child's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff are too keen to provide answers to the questions that they ask. They do not give children the opportunity to think and develop their ideas and thoughts.
- At times, staff do not identify when to get involved in the play of older and the most-able children, to provide more challenge and extend their learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more time to process their thoughts, express their knowledge and respond to questions they are asked
- support staff to recognise when to intervene in the play and activities of older and the most-able children to provide more challenge in their learning and help them make the best possible progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a tour of the nursery. She looked at the range of resources available for the children to use and security arrangements to keep the children safe.
- The inspector spoke to the children, staff and some parents during the inspection. She held discussions with the providers, manager and deputy manager at convenient times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between the staff and children. She completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager and discussed the impact of teaching.
- The inspector discussed the children's learning and progress with the manager and children's key persons.
- The inspector discussed with the manager and providers some of the nursery's policies and procedures and checked evidence of staff's suitability and qualifications. She also discussed the nursery's action plan, staff performance and monitoring procedures.

Inspector

Janice Hughes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff understand their responsibilities to help protect children from harm. All staff are trained in child protection and know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Rigorous recruitment procedures and ongoing suitability checks ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The leaders and staff deal with accidents appropriately. All staff have current paediatric first-aid qualifications. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure any hazards are minimised in the nursery and when out on trips. The manager supports staff well and provides good opportunities for professional development. Staff have regular supervision meetings and attend training to help improve their skills and knowledge.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well-qualified and understand that children learn through play. They know the children well and tailor the weekly planning of activities to children's individual learning and developmental needs. They provide a wide range of stimulating activities to promote children's learning. Physical development is supported effectively in the nursery from an early age. Babies have many opportunities to explore movement. They climb under and over soft blocks and are encouraged to use their handling skills as they explore sensory items in their play. Staff provide many different opportunities for children to develop good coordination and dexterity. For instance, older children enjoy using hammers and nails under close adult supervision, and younger children squeeze sponges and soap containers as they bath dolls.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are attentive and respond well to children's individual needs. Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery and children of all ages demonstrate they are comfortable in their surroundings. Staff help children to take care of their own care needs, relative to their capabilities. For example, they encourage children to tidy away resources, put on their own coats and shoes, and independently serve their own meals. Staff teach children to keep themselves safe. They remind them to be careful when using scissors and hammers in their play. Children have good access to the outdoors, where they can play and exercise in the fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are well prepared for the next stage of their learning and the move on to school. Children are sociable and inquisitive. They concentrate well and listen attentively to staff. Children's early literacy skills are developing well. For example, children form recognisable letters as they practise early writing. Babies enjoy experimenting with sound and use bottles to shake and tap, to help their sensory development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY312022
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1104383
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 - 11
Total number of places	122
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	Little Stars Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525739
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2014
Telephone number	01283 734488

Little Stars registered in 2005. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 20 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The owners hold Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except the week between Christmas and New Year and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6.15pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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