

Little Explorers Pre-school

The Scout Hut, Rosemary Road, Walsall, WS6 7DY



Inspection date	25 April 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 share findings from their training with one another and continually reflect on their practice. This helps to make sure that teaching is consistent and impacts positively on all children's learning and progress. The manager provides all staff with regular support meetings so they can discuss their training needs and any concerns they may have.
- The management committee, staff, parents and children are all included in the self-evaluation of the provision. This helps to ensure a clear focus to continually improve the provision, so that all children on roll benefit from attending.
- Staff promote positive relationships with the local schools. This helps to ensure consistency for children's care and learning. Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff gain information from parents right from the start and use this to identify children's starting points. Parents are well supported to continue their child's learning at home.
- Staff are passionate about making children feel welcome. They are warm and caring, and foster children's strong emotional attachments effectively. Children behave well and form strong friendships with others. Outcomes for children are good.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff move children on too quickly before they have completed a new activity to their own satisfaction.
- On occasions, staff do not give children enough time to think of their own answers to questions during adult-led activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide enough time for children to become more deeply involved as they explore new activities
- give children more time to answer questions, particularly during adult-led activities, to support them to solve problems and think for themselves.

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 held a meeting with the manager and the provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff keep their child protection training up to date. They know the possible signs of abuse and what to do if they have a concern about a child in their care. Staff check all areas of the provision before children arrive and are well deployed to keep children safe. The manager regularly monitors the educational programmes and tracks the development of individual and groups of children well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children to learn about calculation, number, shape and colour. For example, they play alongside children as they investigate the weighing scales to explore differences in weight using small-world toys. Children investigate as they use tools at the mud kitchen. Here, they mix soil, sand, leaves and twigs to make their own concoctions. Staff provide a range of resources that helps children to explore similarities and differences. For example, children play with a range of toys that depicts positive images of diversity. Children also explore a range of festivals during the year through arts and crafts and food tasting. Staff invite people from the local community into the provision to support children's learning. For example, a firefighter talks to children about keeping themselves safe and a nurse helps them to be confident about visiting the doctor when they are unwell. Staff encourage children to find out about nature. They encourage children to look at the habitat of insects. Children look on with excitement as they investigate the 'bug hotel' and use picture cards to identify various bugs and spiders. These activities help children to find out about the world around them very well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children take manageable risks during outdoor play as they climb and balance, run around in the fresh air, including when it is raining, and follow their friends around on their tricycles. They have fun as they climb through and over tyres and run through the trees. Staff provide a range of fruits and vegetables for children's snack times. Children use their senses as they plant and grow their own herbs in the garden areas. This helps them to develop their awareness of a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well. They are confident, independent and develop their 'can-do' attitude to learning well. Children enjoy being imaginative as they put cushions together to make a bus and look through books together on their imaginary travels. They draw pictures and create collages as they use stickers and glue tissues to card. All children like to dress up to play their favourite characters. Older children are beginning to write their names on their work. Children are learning the skills they need for the next phase in their learning, including their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496059
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1041678
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	St Marks's Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901337
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07930035306

Little Explorers Pre-school registered in 2016 and is situated in Walsall in the West Midlands. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, one holds level 3 and three hold level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 2.45pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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