

Little Acorns Nursery

Stubley Lane, Dronfield, Derbyshire, S18 1LS



Inspection date

1 May 2018

Previous inspection date

9 February 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

- The manager provides strong leadership and clear priorities for future improvements. She empowers her staff to take initiative and make a good contribution to the nursery's positive learning environment.
- Staff accurately and precisely assess children's achievement. They use this information well to ensure children make good progress from their individual starting points and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and development, including starting school.
- Staff encourage children to be well behaved and considerate towards others. They provide stimulating activities to promote children's imaginations and inquisitiveness.
- Staff help children to live active and healthy lifestyles. The nursery provides healthy and balanced snacks and meals. Children have many opportunities to be physically active.
- Parents welcome the regular information and guidance they receive on children's daily routines and achievement. They appreciate the attention staff give to providing a safe environment for children to grow and develop in.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently promote the development of children's organisational and independent learning skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to take responsibility in their play and develop their independent learning skills.

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 to the staff and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager. He looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Andrew Clark

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are robust procedures to check staff are suitable to work with children. Staff are trained in child protection and their knowledge is robust and up to date. All staff are qualified in paediatric first aid. The manager consults closely with staff, parents and children to evaluate the nursery's effectiveness and plan further developments. There are good procedures to improve staff's performance. The nursery makes positive use of training opportunities to improve, for example, the effectiveness of assessments and planning and the development of children's mathematical skills. The nursery makes good links with other early years settings children attend. This supports their smooth transition on to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work well with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists, to identify and address any gaps in children's learning. They promote children's listening and communication development well, including those children who speak English as an additional language. Staff help to strengthen children's vocabulary and sentence structure through skilful questioning and participation in children's role play. Staff encourage children to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills. For example, babies are helped to balance objects on top of each other to build towers with their construction toys. Children's early writing skills are promoted well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to understand the needs of others. For example, they encourage them to express their thoughts and ideas when they listen to stories or look at pictures. Children are helped to understand the importance of sharing and taking turns. Staff make good use of praise and encouragement to help children recognise their strengths and support them to overcome difficulties, such as a lack of self-confidence. Staff promote children's awareness of healthy lifestyles and good hygiene procedures. Children wash their hands with care and make sure they are dry before eating their lunch. They plant their own fruit and vegetables and tend them until they are ready to pick and eat.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their mathematical skills and vocabulary. For example, they identify a range of shapes and use them to create interesting printed patterns. They compare the heights of the models they build in their construction play. Children develop their communication and early language skills well. Their early reading and writing skills are promoted strongly. Children learn to follow instructions and engage in regular routines, such as registration and tidying and counting games. Older children make good progress in recognising the sounds different letters represent and identifying them in their names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY332334
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1092685
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	40
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Indra Kumari Athi
Registered person unique reference number	RP907963
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2015
Telephone number	01246 299750

Little Acorns Nursery registered in 2006. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or higher, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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