

Little Learners

East Kent Itec Limited, 99 Victoria Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 1RD



Inspection date	9 May 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 are good role models who provide children with clear rules and boundaries to help encourage them to share and take turns. For example, children use the sand timer to enable them to know when it is their turn with a chosen toy. Children's behaviour is appropriate for their stage of development.
- The manager and staff know the signs and symptoms to look out for which may indicate that a child might be at risk of harm and the procedures to follow to help protect them.
- Children have access to a wide range of toys and resources, inside and outdoors, that helps support their learning and interests. For instance, children enjoy using different tools with the play dough and adding water to the sand, to explore textures through sensory play.
- Staff work very well together as part of a team. The manager effectively deploys them throughout the day to ensure they closely supervise children. Staff carry out thorough risk assessments to keep the environment safe. They teach children how to identify risks and keep themselves safe. For example, children are shown how to use climbing and balancing resources safely.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently challenge and make best use of every opportunity to extend older children's learning to the highest levels.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to broaden older children's mathematical knowledge, such as helping to support them to be more aware of differences in sizes and shapes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff further to build confidence in their practice and to help ensure that teaching is of the highest standard
- review and improve the opportunities older children have to extend their interest in mathematics.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with the manager and provider how they evaluate the service they provide to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, and children's development files.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children and spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector attended a meeting for parents and spoke to parents to gain their views on the service they receive.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Strong recruitment procedures ensure staff are suitably checked before they work with children. The manager follows thorough induction procedures to help new staff and those taking on new roles develop a secure knowledge about their responsibilities. All staff have regular training opportunities and supervisory meetings. For example, they have completed sustained shared thinking training to help develop their teaching practice. The manager accurately monitors and tracks the progress of all children and gaps in learning are quickly identified with appropriate action taken. The manager is enthusiastic and motivated in her role and strives for continuous improvement. There are positive relationships with parents. For instance, the manager holds meetings to support those parents who have children going through to school. Staff have strong links with other early years professionals to provide a continuity of care and learning for all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of observations and assessments to help them identify children's interests and next steps in learning. They plan activities which encourage children's imagination, such as using large boxes to build a bus and go on a pretend journey. Children confidently explore the environment and investigate the variety of experiences on offer. For instance, they use paintbrushes and water to make marks on the fence to practise their early writing skills. Children are eager to see the shoots of the flowers they planted grow, and learn about the natural world around them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong bonds with staff and enjoy their interactions with them. There are secure individualised settling-in procedures that help staff support children's emotional well-being. Children benefit from daily opportunities to practise their physical skills, such as dancing with ribbons and running around outside to develop their coordination and muscle strength. Children manage their personal hygiene and develop their independence. For example, they wash their hands and know where to get a tissue to wipe their nose. Children chatter to staff at mealtimes and learn about healthy options and the benefits of eating nutritious food.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. Children learn to value and respect the differences between themselves and others. They are keen to help, such as handing out musical instruments. Children follow instructions as they tap the sticks together and listen to the sounds. They acquire the skills needed for the next stage in their learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496999
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1039241
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	East Kent Itec Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905035
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01843 233433

Little Learners nursery registered in 2016 and is located in Margate, Kent. The nursery is open 9am to 3pm from Monday to Friday, during term time only. The provider employs six members of staff, four of whom hold a relevant early years qualification at level 3 or above. This includes the provider and the manager who hold relevant teaching qualifications. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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