

Little Acorns Nursery School

Waterberry Drive, Waterloooville, PO7 7UN



Inspection date

15 May 2018

Previous inspection date

8 November 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Management and staff have worked extremely hard to address the actions and recommendations from the last inspection. They have received support and advice from the local authority and acted swiftly to bring about rapid improvement.
- Management values the commitment and dedication of each member of staff.
- Managers support staff to use observation and assessment procedures effectively. They identify children's next steps in learning to help all children make good progress.
- Staff support children's communication skills consistently well. They listen showing great respect to children and sensitively encourage them to confidently express their thoughts and ideas. Children's behaviour is good.
- Staff routinely share children's online observations with parents about their progress and actively engage them in children's home learning.
- Staff communicate well with other settings that children attend and local schools that children move on to. They share information about children's level of development and work together. This helps provide consistency in children's care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently provide children with a wide range of resources to build on their literacy skills, in particular for those who prefer to learn outdoors.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to support children's awareness of healthy eating.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of opportunities to build on children's awareness and use of literacy in their chosen play, in particular for those who prefer to play outdoors
- offer more consistent support to children to help develop their understanding of the benefits of healthy eating further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors. She assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the manager and discussed with her how she monitors the quality of teaching.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager to determine her ability to monitor and develop staff practice.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, such as evidence of adult suitability, safeguarding, children's progress records and behaviour management procedures.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took into account the views of other parents from their written feedback.

Inspector

Janet Thouless

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers ensure that staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection and how to refer any concerns they may have about a child's welfare. Managers observe and evaluate staff practice, provide regular supervision, and make training a high priority. For example, recent training on supporting boys' play has had a significant impact on boys' creative skills and good behaviour. Managers target additional funding successfully to support children who have additional needs. They have established effective systems for monitoring different groups of children and use this information well. For example, they now offer small-group times for toddlers to build on their communication and language skills more effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and use this knowledge to plan exciting activities that capture children's interest. For example, older children enthusiastically share how they made a pirate ship from a giant box. Staff are attentive and offer good support for babies' explorations as they investigate a range of sensory play items. Staff regularly use songs that toddlers enjoy, to add new vocabulary and extend speech. Staff support children's mathematical development well. For example, they hide numbers in shaving foam and children confidently identify the numbers they have found. Staff encourage children to develop their understanding about the wider world. They learn about festivals, their own cultures and those of others.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment, and they interact well with the children to help support their emotional well-being. There is an effective key-person system and all staff effectively help children to manage their own behaviour. For example, they sensitively help children to talk about their feelings and promote an environment that supports a culture of mutual respect. Staff are deployed well and supervise children vigilantly. They teach children useful skills to help keep them safe. For example, they encourage children to think about why it is safer to tidy toys away and what might happen if someone falls over them. Children take part in active play outdoors where they enjoy fresh air and exercise as part of developing good health.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with additional needs, make good developmental progress. They are enthusiastic learners, interested in accessing resources and developing their own play ideas. Children communicate confidently and eagerly start conversations and share how they enjoyed handling animals from a recent farm visit. Children are inquisitive, such as when exploring dough. They roll, knead, squeeze and stretch it and keenly identify the different shapes forming. Children are well prepared for their next stage of learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY499416
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1118194
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	88
Number of children on roll	142
Name of registered person	Little Acorns Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535310
Date of previous inspection	8 November 2017
Telephone number	02392265151

Little Acorns Nursery registered in 1995 and is located in Waterloooville, Hampshire. The nursery is open each weekday from 7:30am to 6pm, for 52 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years old. Staff support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and children learning English as an additional language. The nursery employs 25 members of staff. One holds early years teacher status, one holds a degree, and 16 hold appropriate childcare qualifications between level 2 and level 4.

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