

# Little Acorns Day Nursery

Lockhart Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2AX



<b>Inspection date</b>	22 May 2018
Previous inspection date	14 August 2015

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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

- Children, including those receiving funding, enjoy their learning and all children make good progress. Staff make useful observations and get to know the children well.
- The relationships between children and staff are good. Children show that they feel happy and content. Babies in particular have very strong relationships with the staff.
- The manager and staff accurately identify areas for improvements. The manager understands good practice and is committed to transfer this knowledge to all staff.
- Staff are positive role models. They teach children to be kind to each other and show respect. Children are extremely well mannered and independent.
- Parents are pleased with the care and learning experiences for children. They comment on the 'approachable' staff and about how much their children enjoy attending. Parents state that they feel fully informed about their child's development.
- Children gain skills in making healthy choices. They take great interest in the diverse and nutritious food prepared for them.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes overlook opportunities to extend children's thinking skills to higher levels. On occasion, staff do not support children to think about what they want to say before moving on with the conversation.
- Although staff track the progress of children, they do not use the information as effectively as possible to ensure seamless progression throughout the setting.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff teaching techniques further, to support children to think and consider their responses fully
- develop effective systems for tracking and monitoring children to ensure transition from room to room is seamless and consistent across the setting.

### 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 completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manger. She looked at relevant documentation and checked the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

### Inspector

Amanda Harrison

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff vetting, recruitment and induction in the nursery's policies, procedures and daily practices are clear and thorough. The manager is conscientious and enthusiastic. She shows a strong commitment to supporting staff in their roles, and actively encourages staff to further their professional development through additional training. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff confidently explain their role to protect children from harm and know what to do should they have any concerns. Parents speak very highly of the care and education their children receive.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe children at play to help them to identify what children need to learn next. They plan activities based on children's interests and that, generally, build on what children already know and can do. Staff support early literacy skills well. Older children actively participate in sessions to focus on letter sounds using puppets and songs to reinforce learning. Toddlers use story books to extend learning experiences. For example, reading 'The Hungry Caterpillar' once their butterflies hatched. Younger children enjoy giving meaning to the marks that they make as they create shapes with brushes outdoors. Babies like to explore their environment. They investigate sensory toys as they feel textures and listen to sounds. Children are confident and have a good knowledge of the daily routines from an early age. They enjoy learning about the world around them. For instance, children learn about life cycles first hand as they hatch duck eggs and butterflies.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn to be capable and independent in a nurturing and loving environment. They learn to be considerate of each other's feelings and ideas as staff positively support their social and emotional well-being. Children learn well and have fun together at mealtimes. They are eager to get involved in serving themselves and pouring the milk onto their cereal from the jug. Children behave well. Staff celebrate children's good behaviour and achievements at circle time. Children listen to, and follow, simple instructions from staff. Children benefit from playing in the fresh air and the regular outdoor learning activities. Staff share information effectively about children's ongoing care and development with parents and other professionals involved in children's lives, helping continuity of care and teaching.

### Outcomes for children are good

All children in the setting are gaining the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and eventual move on to school. Older children use their imaginations and fine-motor skills to build carefully a landscape for the wild animals. Babies confidently explore the texture of paint. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from tailored teaching and support that enables them to participate fully in nursery life. Children are confident and display positive attitudes to their play and learning.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY286027
<b>Local authority</b>	Surrey
<b>Inspection number</b>	1129066
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	57
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	77
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Emily Clare Towers
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP904460
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	14 August 2015
<b>Telephone number</b>	01932 864675

Little Acorns Day Nursery registered in 2004 and operates from five rooms within the grounds of St Andrews School, Cobham in Surrey. The setting is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The setting employs 23 members of staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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