

Little Learners (Galgate) Nursery & Preschool

St Joseph's Church, Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster, LA2 0JW



Inspection date	29 May 2018
Previous inspection date	8 February 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 highly qualified, demonstrate an excellent knowledge of child development and have high expectations of all children. They plan interesting activities and engaging experiences, which help children to progress well in all areas of learning.
- Key persons know children well, meet their individual care needs and are considerate and attentive. Children are supervised at all times and supported to assess risks as they play. This helps them to feel confident, safe, secure and valued.
- Self-evaluation practices are good. The management team work effectively together and seek feedback from children, staff and parents to plan improvements to the setting.
- Staff work with other professionals, agencies and organisations to support children's learning, where appropriate. There are very good links with local schools for transition.
- Children are well supported when they start in the setting. Staff work closely with parents to ensure that children settle quickly and feel at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Parents do not always feel very well informed about their children's learning.
- Although continued professional development opportunities are provided for all staff, these are not always focused on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen information sharing with parents to ensure they feel well informed about their children's learning and development
- enhance opportunities for continued professional development to raise the quality of all teaching to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities 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 proprietor and manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery proprietor and manager and the second nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julia Matthew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. A range of robust policies and procedures are accessible in the setting and evident in practice. For example, policies relating to sickness and the administration of medication are closely followed. Staff, at all levels, demonstrate a very good understanding of their role to keep children safe. Effective systems are in place for monitoring children's progress and highlighting any gaps in their learning, which are planned for. Staff are deployed well and the quality of their practice is regularly reviewed. Recruitment, induction and supervision systems ensure that staff are suitable and get the support they need to develop new skills. Regular staff meetings are used to promote good practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Teaching is good and sometimes outstanding. Where it is outstanding, staff use a range of effective strategies to enhance children's learning to the highest level. Pre-school children are challenged to think about the behaviour of characters in a story and demonstrate excellent comprehension. They use reasoning and draw on evidence as they share their thoughts and offer imaginative answers to questions. Babies access a range of attractively displayed sensory materials and develop an interest in the world around them. They listen intently to songs and rhymes, smiling and making eye contact with staff. Older children spend regular time in the nearby forest area. They develop a real interest in the natural world and begin to understand how to care for the environment. Observations are used to make accurate assessments of children's progress. Individual records of learning are shared with parents at twice-yearly progress meetings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff warmly welcome families as they arrive in the setting. Children form strong bonds with their key person, who they confidently go to for support and comfort. Staff promote independence well. Children can easily access their water containers or pour water from jugs that are kept at their height. They learn about healthy eating and are provided with hot and cold nutritious meals. When children are unwell, staff contact parents swiftly and ensure children are comfortable. Physical development is promoted well. Children move freely between the indoor and outdoor spaces. Outdoors, they confidently negotiate spaces and transport objects as they build with natural materials. Shade and shelter are provided to ensure children are protected from the weather. Staff help children to understand and celebrate differences and be kind and considerate to each other.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make at least good progress in their learning. They develop the knowledge and skills they need to cope extremely well as they move between rooms and on to school. Babies develop muscle strength and balance as they practise walking with support. Two-year-old children show excitement as they look carefully at cocoons. They paint pictures of butterflies make predictions and talk about patterns. Pre-school children confidently retell stories using sometimes complex, descriptive language.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY447506
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1136860
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 - 5
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	76
Name of registered person	Anne-Marie Webster
Registered person unique reference number	RP516296
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2013
Telephone number	07968033444 or 07817853935

Little Learners (Galgate) Nursery and Preschool registered in 2012. The setting employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, the proprietor and manager holds qualified teacher status, early years professional status and a master's degree; five other staff are qualified teachers, one holds an appropriate qualification at level 4 and six hold qualifications at level 3. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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