

Little Explorers Day Nursery Pakenham

4 Old Hall Barns, Bury St. Edmunds IP31 2NG



Inspection date	23 October 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 leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- Teaching is consistently good and at times outstanding. The staff team are passionate about the support they give to all children and ensure that they are well prepared for their next stage in learning. The nursery environment is very child centred and meticulously planned to take account of children's age, abilities and needs.
- Staff are highly successful in promoting children's independence and self-care skills. For example, children confidently serve their meals and clear away when finished. Children's social skills are excellently supported. Staff's sensitive interaction supports children in understanding and appreciating one another and learning to work together.
- Staff have a very good knowledge of how children learn best through play. They provide stimulating and imaginative learning experiences that ignite children's interest. Children are highly motivated, keen to explore and eager to learn.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent and have a very positive impact on children's learning and development. Staff are extremely successful in engaging parents in their children's ongoing learning. In addition, staff work very closely with other agencies to obtain the extra support children and families need. Parents are extremely complimentary about the nursery and the dedication of the staff team.
- Management have a clear vision for the future of the nursery. They use their vast experience to work closely with staff and parents to evaluate their provision. Changes implemented benefit children. For example, more robust systems to analyse children's progress have led to an increased focus on promoting children's early mathematical skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most effective use of the information gained from assessment of children's progress to identify precise next steps in their learning and plan to support children to make rapid progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more effective use of rigorous assessments of children's progress so that precise next steps in their learning are identified and planned for to support children to make rapid progress.

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 nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and viewed written testimonials, taking account of parents' views.

Inspector

Lindsey Cullum

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The reflective management and staff team have high expectations for all children. They are enthusiastic and work exceptionally well as a team. Staff talk confidently about the positive impact that training and research has had on their attitude, knowledge and practice. For example, they are introducing more natural materials to encourage children's curiosity and exploration of the world around them. The manager has strengthened staff performance further by carrying out observations of teaching and giving staff ongoing guidance to help them improve. Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff take part in regular training to update their safeguarding knowledge and understand wider issues surrounding child protection. They know what to do to report concerns about children's welfare and keep them safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and have a secure knowledge of the age group they are working with. They engage well with children, coaching and guiding their play and skilfully following their interests. Activities are pitched at the right level and staff use good questioning that encourages children to think and problem solve. Babies have lots of uninterrupted time to explore their environment. They show delight and a sense of accomplishment as they make noises with shakers or fit pieces into puzzles. Staff spend time talking and listening to children and engage them in conversations linked to their play, which helps children build on their speaking skills. Older children confidently express their ideas, opinions and news from home. Children show their imagination through their artwork and role play. They adapt resources as they pretend to make cakes or cups of tea. Children handle tools, such as scissors, with increasing control. They use their creative ideas as they paint, glue and draw. Examples of their work are attractively displayed in the rooms, which gives children a real sense of pride in their work.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's well-being is always at the centre of staff's practice. They proactively seek training to expertly support children's complex health and medical needs. Strong bonds quickly develop between children and their key person. Home visits and settling sessions enable key staff to get to know new children and their families exceptionally well and children make a smooth transition in to nursery. Babies and young children respond extremely well to the nurturing manner of the staff. Children are happy, emotionally secure and thrive in the nursery. Strong emphasis is placed on teaching children about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy the extremely varied, freshly prepared meals, that are meticulously planned to take account of any dietary needs or preferences. They have plenty of opportunities to play outside and be physically active.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive funded early education, make good progress from their starting points. They are developing positive attitudes to learning and are very confident and self-assured. Children gain the skills they need for school by practising early writing and linking sounds to letters. They confidently apply mathematical concepts and increase their awareness of weight, shapes, numbers and size during daily activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538117
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10079282
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Little Explorers Childcare Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP538116
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07810817476

Little Explorers Day Nursery Pakenham registered in 2016 and is privately owned. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions operate from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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