

Little Owls Woodland Preschool



Itchen Valley Country Park, Allington Lane, Southampton, Hampshire
SO30 3HQ

Inspection date	22 November 2018		
Previous inspection date	Not applicable		
The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- On one occasion, children were not supervised as well as possible and a child had a minor accident that staff heard but did not see.
- Although new staff have an induction, it is sometimes not rigorous enough. Not all staff are fully trained to support children's care and welfare.
- A few assessments of children's progress are inaccurate and staff are sometimes not engaging well with children to aid their learning successfully.
- Self-evaluation and improvement have not been strong enough since the registration. For example, liaising with other providers to share information about children's learning and development is inconsistent.

It has the following strengths

- Children are excited and motivated learners. They develop their physical skills well and learn about their own safety, for example, during activities such as cooking on a fire.
- Children are happy and settled. They behave well, build trusting relationships with staff and show confidence with friends. For example, they work together well to gather firewood for the log store.
- Overall, parents' feedback is positive. They are happy with the communication from the management team and see the benefits outdoor learning brings to their children.
- The new provider is in the process of reorganising their leadership team. Managers thoroughly check staff's suitability and staff understand child protection procedures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that staff are always deployed effectively so children are adequately supervised and their needs are consistently met	07/12/2018
improve induction training so all staff have a secure knowledge of their health and safety responsibilities	07/12/2018
improve the children's assessments and staff's teaching to ensure the learning outcomes for all children are consistently good.	07/12/2018

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

- develop stronger links with all other settings children attend to enable continuity in children's care and their learning and development
- develop self-evaluation methods, to identify successfully strengths of practice and what needs to improve.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a leadership and management discussion with the manager and the nominated person and looked at relevant documentation.
- The inspector observed children's play and learning activities and talked to children.

Inspector

Loraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The management team does not reflect well enough on all aspects of the provision. As a result, it has not identified in a timely manner areas where improvement is needed. However, following a complaint, the management team has identified some weaknesses and started to address these. Although children are supervised, on one occasion a minor accident occurred which was not fully witnessed by staff. Managers do not monitor the accuracy of staff's assessments of children's progress or the effectiveness of their teaching well enough. As a result, these are not consistently of a good standard. Staff are offered coaching and help to gain a recognised qualification, but their induction at the woodland setting lacks rigour. Although there are enough qualified first-aiders, not all staff can carry out their specific roles successfully. Safeguarding is effective. Designated staff for safeguarding are fully trained and all staff are aware of their reporting roles when they identify a concern.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Teaching is inconsistent. Staff do not always liaise with other settings children attend to share information, to have a consistent approach to their teaching and learning. Staff observe children as they play and plan for some progress, but not all assessments are accurate. Some children are learning well in key areas of learning, such as in their communication and language, social and physical skills. Staff provide good extension in children's thinking skills during whole-group firepit activities. However, overall, staff do not use all the information effectively to plan activities to engage individual children well enough. This means that, at times, some older children run around unchallenged in their learning. Staff miss teaching opportunities to extend children fully, such as in their pre-writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The leadership systems, such as staff deployment and induction training, are not as effective as possible. However, children are very settled and build strong relationships with staff and friends. They are independent and very much enjoy doing small tasks, developing a keen sense of responsibility. Children behave well, and staff are good role models for the children. They remind the children of the setting's rules and boundaries on how to keep safe. Children quickly become confident and develop good self-esteem. Children enjoy an outdoor picnic with friends in the cold weather, wrapped up warmly.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children enjoy their time at pre-school, but not all children make the best possible progress in all areas because of the weaknesses in teaching. Older boys or those identified as needing extra support in learning lack specific teaching support. Children learn some skills that help them prepare for starting school. For example, they sit and listen well to instructions during firepit cooking, and contribute their thoughts and ideas. Children have fun with their friends, show imagination and show good large movement skills. They love the challenge of balancing on ropes or climbing up a tree.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY556184
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10085195
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Youth Options Centres Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535058
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01794525510

Little Owls Woodland Preschool registered in 2018. It is an outdoor forest pre-school. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 3pm, term time only. Seven staff work with the children, three of whom hold qualified teacher status. The pre-school is in receipt of free early education funding for children aged two, three and four years.

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