

Little Explorers Community Nursery

Blackerhill Centre, Wentworth Road, Blackerhill, Barnsley, South
Yorkshire S74 0RL



Inspection date	5 December 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The managers provide ambitious and innovative leadership to this strongly developing nursery. They work well with staff and parents to create a challenging and caring learning environment.
- Children achieve well in all areas of their learning from their personal starting points. Staff accurately assess children's progress and plan exciting activities to help them reach the next steps in their learning.
- Staff create many opportunities for children to interact with the world around them and develop the knowledge and skills for their future learning. For example, children explore natural objects in woodland and muddy areas, safely climb trees and develop their problem-solving skills through outdoor play and visits.
- Staff are very good role models to the children in their care. They make good use of praise and clear guidance to support children's good behaviour and growing confidence.
- Parents welcome the many opportunities to be involved in the life of the nursery through, for example, the parents' forum and the family social activities, including bonfire night celebrations. They are well informed about their children's progress and daily experiences.
- Procedures to develop all staff's performance further are not focused sharply on continually raising the quality of teaching.
- Staff do not consistently support children to develop their independent organisational skills as effectively as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on procedures to improve all staff's performance to sharply focus on continually enhancing the quality of teaching
- strengthen strategies to encourage children to develop their independence skills.

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 completed joint observations with a nursery manager.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the nursery managers.
- The inspector held meetings with the managers. He looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Andrew Clark

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The managers ensure that staff take advantage of training on all aspects of protecting children from harm. They regularly challenge staff to deepen their knowledge through frequent 'spot quizzes' and staff meeting discussions. The managers have robust policies to make sure that information about children, including digital records, is responsibly managed. The managers take full advantage of research and training, often in partnership with the local authority. This helps them to develop the rich curriculum they provide, including technology and 'loose parts' creative projects. The managers listen carefully to the views of staff, parents and children to evaluate and improve the nursery. For example, they regularly involve children in helping to construct a balanced menu for their lunchtime meals.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of additional funding and support, to help children achieve their best. For example, they work closely with specialist educational professionals to help children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to achieve well. Staff are imaginative and have high expectations overall. For example, they help children to measure and compare lengths of beads when they decorate their colourful Christmas tree. Staff help babies and young children explore the language and properties of ice and cold water in their sensory play. They enrich children's imagination through well-told stories, songs and rhymes. Staff plan activities carefully to match the constantly developing range of children's interests. Children learn to initiate their own activities and imaginary worlds through the well resourced role-play and dressing-up opportunities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work closely with parents and carers to help children settle quickly and smoothly into nursery life. They accurately identify any signs that children are not settling in and plan activities to overcome this. Children develop their social skills well. Staff nurture babies' early self-confidence, for example, by involving them in group activities, such as listening to action songs and following stories together. Children are encouraged to listen to others and to take turns, for example, when they play number and counting games. The staff strongly encourage children's awareness of good hygiene and healthy eating. They encourage children to regularly wash their hands. Parents comment that the staff provide good support for their children's toilet training routines.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next stage of their education, including their move to school. They make good progress in their language and communication skills. Children develop their early reading and writing skills well through imaginative activities. For example, they enjoy making marks in the large muddy and wet sand play areas. They identify letters from their own name when they hang their coats on their own pegs at the start of the day. Staff encourage children to develop their interests. For example, children learn the names of dinosaurs by matching the models to their pictures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY536958
Local authority	Barnsley
Inspection number	10067463
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	26
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Little Explorers Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP536957
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01226740878

Little Explorers Community Nursery registered in 2016. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff, nine of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or higher, including two at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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