

Little Gems Nursery and After School Club

Ravenscroft Primary School, Ebony Way, Kirkby, LIVERPOOL L33 1XT



Inspection date	14 March 2019
Previous inspection date	21 August 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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

- Managers have reflected on the issues raised through the previous inspection and have made positive changes to improve practice within the nursery. They have improved systems for monitoring the progress individual and groups of children make.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported extremely well and staff quickly identify the areas that they need further support. Staff work closely in partnership with parents and other professionals to target the support that is offered to children and their families.
- The experienced and highly qualified staff team is passionate about its role in continually raising the quality of the nursery. Staff have embraced opportunities to reflect on the previous inspection and work well with local authority advisers to plan further improvements appropriately.
- Children are active and relish opportunities to play outdoors. Staff use windy weather as an opportunity to teach children about cause and effect. Children enjoy watching streamers and ribbons spin in the wind.
- Staff do not organise planned activities well enough to minimise nearby distractions and help maintain children's focus.
- Staff supporting children do not consistently make the most of opportunities to extend children's understanding of numbers and positional language.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on the organisation of planned activities, to minimise distractions to children's focused attention
- provide more opportunities for children to explore naturally occurring mathematical concepts, such as discussions regarding quantity and counting opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the senior managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

Inspector
Alison Hobbs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff share a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare or development. Staff attend regular training to keep their knowledge up to date on all aspects of child protection and safeguarding issues. Staff complete detailed risk assessments and encourage older children to assess the outdoor environment to ensure any areas of potential risk are eliminated. The manager plans regular opportunities to meet with staff and reflect on their practice. Together, they discuss their professional development and identify how they can build on their skills and expertise through additional training. Leaders review the progress made by individual children and groups of children. This helps to inform planning. Staff understand the importance of partnership working and have developed good links with other settings children attend.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff place a strong emphasis on helping children to develop good early literacy skills. Creative ideas, such as producing story maps, embrace children's love for books and provide opportunities for them to recall significant themes and events from the story. Children develop good physical skills. They balance and manoeuvre around the garden by climbing and taking big steps to avoid the imaginary garden crocodile. Staff provide children with creative ways to explore making marks and forming letters and shapes. For example, children delight as they make patterns and marks in foam. This supports children's early literacy very well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's behaviour is good. Staff provide children with a narrative for their play and offer many opportunities to celebrate and recognise positive behaviour. Children are polite and staff are positive role models who encourage children to consider one another's feelings. Key persons work well with parents to identify what children can already do when they first start. They use this information to help inform their initial assessments. Babies and young children develop strong attachments with their key person. They use staff as a secure base to explore their surroundings. For example, babies relish opportunities to explore natural resources and share these with their key person. Mealtimes are a sociable experience in which staff use every opportunity to encourage children's independence. For example, older children are supported to pour drinks and serve their own meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are focused, motivated and eager learners. They develop a positive attitude to learning and all children make good progress from their individual starting points. They quickly gain the skills needed for their next stage in learning, including their eventual move on to school. Children develop skills which support their independence and self-care. For example, at mealtimes children wash their hands without being reminded.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345926
Local authority	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Inspection number	10073578
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Maryvale Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP904932
Date of previous inspection	21 August 2018
Telephone number	0151 548 0222

Little Gems Nursery and After School Club registered in 2007. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one with qualified teacher status, two who hold qualifications at level 5, and six who hold qualifications at level 3. 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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