

Learning Ladder Pre School

Methodist Church Hall, Leagrave High Street, LUTON LU4 9LQ



Inspection date	15 May 2019
Previous inspection date	21 January 2016

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

- Leaders of the pre-school demonstrate ambition to continually improve the services they offer to the children and families. Their reflective ethos and practice mean they identify effectively areas to develop that ultimately benefit children.
- Staff promote children's independence very well. They encourage children to peel fruit and wipe their own noses. As a result, children demonstrate a can-do attitude.
- Staff genuinely enjoy the time they spend with the children. They follow their lead to sing songs and make fun learning experiences.
- There are a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills. Pencils, chalk and felt tips are available at every activity. Additionally, play dough and tweezer activities are on offer to help children develop the strength in their hands needed for later writing skills.
- Staff promote children's mathematical skills well. Children excitedly find the correct number of items to match their numerals. They also explore the concepts of 'full' and 'empty' when playing with water and sand.
- Children are kind and caring towards one another. They offer to share toys and take turns when using the slide. Staff praise them regularly. This helps promote children's good behaviour.
- Children are articulate and confidently engage with adults and the activities available to them. However, at times, staff do not challenge the most able children to help them make even better progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more challenging opportunities for the most able children to build on their curiosity and to help them make the best possible progress in their learning.

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 at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff members, and a range of other documentation. First-aid and safeguarding training certificates were viewed.
- The inspector reviewed the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Elke Rockey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Leaders have a strong knowledge of the early years foundation stage requirements. Staff attend a range of training and network events to support their work. For example, they visit other settings to share ideas. The manager further supports quality by monitoring teaching and learning, and implementing actions to develop the provision. As a result, the pre-school maintains good standards of education and care. Additional funding to support children is spent wisely. The staff work well with other professionals to support children, such as those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Safeguarding is effective. The manager has robust recruitment procedures in place, ensuring that all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have up-to-date knowledge about child protection concerns and procedures. This helps to promote children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff gather details of children's learning from parents and their own observations. The well-qualified staff use this information to promote children's learning effectively. They include children's next steps in learning through playful activities. Staff support children's imagination as they pretend to cook dinner with carrots, snow peas and potatoes in the home corner. Staff involve parents in their children's learning from the very beginning. They discuss children's progress, share books and invite parents to play. This helps children's overall learning. Parents report they can see how much their children learn. Bilingual staff use a child's home language effectively to assess and support children's communication and language skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide an interesting environment for children to learn in. Children settle quickly and explore the activities with confidence. Children are gaining an awareness of healthy lifestyles. They eat fruit at snack and wash their hands at suitable times of the day. Outside, staff help children learn new physical skills. They encourage children to pedal bicycles and balance on tyres. The premises is safe and staff help children to stay safe. For example, they remind them to go down steps slowly. Staff build sensitive and welcoming relationships with the parents.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. Children are acquiring the skills they need for the next step in their education and move on to school. Older children listen well and are respectful of others. They concentrate for long periods of time as they build domino runs and create recognisable paintings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY456684
Local authority	Luton
Inspection number	10075328
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	28
Name of registered person	Ghani, Zarina Nahid
Registered person unique reference number	RP904981
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2016
Telephone number	07960322612

Learning Ladder Pre School registered in 2012 and is located in Luton. The pre-school employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, one has a qualification at level 6 and all other staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The pre-school opens term time only on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.30am to 11.30am and 12.30pm to 3pm. On Tuesdays, sessions are from 8.30am to 11.30am. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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