

Felsted Little Acorns

Felsted Primary School, Braintree Road, Felsted, DUNMOW, Essex CM6 3EB



Inspection date	5 July 2019
Previous inspection date	14 December 2015

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

- The well-established team work well together and provide children with stimulating play opportunities to capture their interests. Staff are vigilant to children's safety and act as good role models. For example, staff wear sun hats during hot weather and frequently remind children to drink plenty of water.
- Parents speak highly of the pre-school and appreciate the skills and experience of the staff team. Parents are well informed of children's daily activities and are encouraged to be fully engaged in children's learning.
- Children are confident and feel secure at the pre-school. They follow daily routines well and demonstrate independence in their self-care according to their level of development.
- Staff support children's early literacy skills effectively. For example, they plan playful activities to enhance children's knowledge of letters and the sounds they make. Children are developing an interest in reading and know that text carries meaning. Some older children confidently write their own name.
- Staff do not always respond to children's fascination for certain toys and inspire them to investigate how they work.
- Sometimes, staff do not foster children's sense of independence and individuality during creative activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's curiosity about the world around them and help them find out how things work
- give children more opportunities to independently express their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through creative activities, such as painting.

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 pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a clear understanding of their role to identify and report concerns about children in their care. They risk assess the play environment effectively and know what to do in the event of an emergency. The manager works alongside staff and supervises them well. Targets are set to help staff improve their skills and knowledge to a higher level. Self-evaluation is used effectively to identify future improvements to benefit children. The manager has a good overview of children's progress and helps staff plan appropriate next steps in learning. Partnership working with other providers and schools are good and is especially supportive as children move from one provision to the other.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy playing and learning. They find plenty of interesting playthings and show good levels of concentration in their chosen activities. Staff teach children about size as they compare different footprints and introduce them to mathematical language to describe what they have seen. Children's imaginations are enhanced well as staff join in with their games and search for treasure. Staff provide opportunities for children to draw maps and consider how to reach their destinations by boat. Staff lead group activities skilfully and capture children's interests well. Children learn to listen carefully and when appropriate, join in with their ideas and suggestions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show maturity as they organise their games and play happily with friends. They take turns, share toys and show kindness to one another. Children develop good physical skills as they enjoy plenty of fresh air and activities outside. They particularly like kicking balls and pedalling tricycles safely around objects and friends. Staff promote good hygiene routines and children know the appropriate times to wash their hands. Children form strong emotional bonds with their key person and show confidence in their surroundings. They visit the host school regularly and some children join their older friends for school lunches. This helps to build children's confidence in new surroundings prior to moving to school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated to explore and learn. They communicate very well and are confident to share ideas and thoughts with others. Children make good progress from their starting points and are well prepared for their next stage in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	404877
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10062922
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	23
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Felsted Little Acorns Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521139
Date of previous inspection	14 December 2015
Telephone number	07917 190328

Felsted Little Acorns registered in 2001 and is situated within the grounds of Felsted Primary School. The pre-school employs 10 members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including two members of staff with qualified teacher status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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