

Little Hands Nursery, Epsom Common

Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, EPSOM, Surrey KT19 8NE



Inspection date	3 July 2019
Previous inspection date	5 November 2014

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

- Effective procedures are in place to ensure the nursery provides a safe environment for the children. External doors are kept locked and parents and visitors are individually welcomed into the nursery.
- Staff are warm and caring with all children in their care. They know children well and are sensitive to their immediate needs. This helps children to settle in quickly and develop close emotional attachments.
- Children learn how to be safe. They demonstrate this as they climb trees with control, handle and use a range of real-life tools such as drills and hammers, and listen to and follow instructions from staff.
- Parents' feedback is very positive. They are provided with a broad range of information to help them understand the aims of forest school sessions and how they complement children's learning.
- Children are friendly and self-confident when talking to authorised visitors about their activities and what they like in the nursery. For example, older children talk about the different bugs that they may find in the woodland.
- On occasions, the manager has not used self-evaluation effectively enough to identify precise targets, to help drive overall standards to an outstanding level.
- The manager is aware of the need for staff to receive regular supervisions. However, this process is not yet fully embedded effectively to support and enhance teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further the systems for self-evaluation to identify and develop areas that will have the greatest impact on outcomes for children's learning
- make better use of regular staff supervisions to enhance the continuous improvement of staff professional development.

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 a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

Inspector

Kelly Lane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have successfully created an environment that meets the needs of all children effectively. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure children are well supervised. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager supports staff well. For instance, staff have undertaken a range of child protection training. As a result, staff know the correct reporting procedure to follow if they have concerns about the safety or welfare of any child in their care. Staff place a high priority on keeping children safe. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child and minimise risks in play without limiting opportunities for development. Recruitment is robust. The manager provides induction for new staff. Children's progress is closely monitored to identify and target any emerging gaps in their individual learning or areas of the curriculum. The nursery has developed good links with other early years settings and schools to enable smooth transitions when the time comes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children very well and use their interests to plan a stimulating and engaging environment. Staff promote early literacy skills well. They provide various materials, such as pots, water, crayons, chalks and paint, to help develop children's mark-making skills. For example, they excitedly 'paint' the trees with mud and water, using different sized brushes. Staff teach children about the natural world around them. This is illustrated when they talk to children about a small spider that they have found in the woodlands. Staff support children's mathematical understanding very well. Staff ensure that children have opportunities to count in the different areas of the nursery. For example, children accurately count objects that they collect on their walks. Children learn about the wider world, local services and people who can help them in their daily lives.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's health and well-being are promoted very well. Children spend time outdoors daily and access a range of activities that cover all areas of learning. Children are confident to approach staff for comfort and reassurance. They independently choose the activities they want to do and initiate conversations with the staff. Children carry out their own risk assessments. This helps to promote their problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. For example, when climbing branches in the woodland they are able to identify hazards, such as branches that are too 'thin' and need to be avoided. Children's behaviour is very good. Children know forest school rules, for example, that boundary ropes are there to protect them. Children show good levels of understanding, knowing when a member of staff sings they must return immediately to base camp. Children help each other to behave well and to take responsibility for tasks.

Outcomes for children are good

All children develop the skills that help them prepare for the next stages in their learning and eventual move to school. They develop a love for the outdoors, self-confidence and listening skills. For example, children share resources well without prompting. Older children listen well and are respectful of others. They concentrate for long periods of time as they use scissors to snip small sticks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY409891
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10106648
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Hyacinth's Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529750
Date of previous inspection	5 November 2014
Telephone number	07768 907822

Little Hands Nursery registered under the current provider in 2010. It is one of two privately-owned nurseries. It operates from Christchurch Hall, situated near Epsom Common, in Surrey. The nursery is open each weekday during term time from 8.50am to 2.50pm. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are three staff who work with the children. The manager has a level 6 childcare qualification and all other staff have relevant qualifications at level 3.

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