

Inspection of Little Pioneers nursery & pre-school, Leamington Spa

1 Upper Grove Street, LEAMINGTON SPA, Warwickshire CV32 5AN

Inspection date: 29 November 2019

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The nursery is a hive of activity, where children play cooperatively under the close nurturing supervision of staff. Children arrive happy and eager to delve straight into the array of activities available, which are based on their interests and learning needs. Children who begin nursery with starting points lower than expected, quickly catch up with their peers. This includes those who speak English as an additional language. Good relationships are evident between the staff and children. Children behave well. They are becoming increasingly adept at managing everyday tasks for themselves. For example, they learn to dress themselves and serve their own food at mealtimes, and older children tend to their own personal needs. Children display positive attitudes to learning and are gaining the necessary skills and attitudes for the next stages in their education, including their move on to school. They are highly motivated and inquisitive investigators who concentrate well and persevere until they achieve their aims. Staff in the baby room support babies' exploration and developing mobility well. Babies confidently 'cruise' along while holding onto low-level furniture. They explore natural materials such as wooden and metal items. Encouraged by staff, they excitedly shake and bang these together to make different sounds.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The manager and staff carry out daily checks to ensure that children can play in a safe and secure environment. Accidents are recorded and reported promptly to parents.
- Staff manage children's behaviour well. Children listen and promptly respond to instructions.
- Children enjoy story time and looking at books with staff. Staff use these opportunities to extend children's language development, for example by introducing them to new words.
- Two-year-old children thoroughly enjoy their morning music session. They sing enthusiastically and take turns choosing the next song. That said, staff do not always take account of the space available when planning activities. Some children are not able to fully engage, and lose enthusiasm in the activity.
- Staff support children's mathematical development well. Two-year-olds learn to count and recognise basic shapes. Older children become excited as they search for the laminated numbered leaves among natural resources, such as horse chestnuts, pine cones, twigs, wood and leaves that they have collected previously. Staff take these opportunities to introduce simple addition and subtraction, and teach children to match number to quantity.
- Children use a variety of mark-making resources which help to develop their small-muscle skills in preparation for early writing.
- Children develop a good understanding of the importance of eating nutritious

and nourishing food as part of a healthy lifestyle. They have daily opportunities to be active, indoors and outdoors. However, the lunchtime routine does not always work well in the room for two-year-old children, who are sometimes sitting and waiting for too long before lunch. This results in some children becoming restless.

- Children learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, they know the importance of safely using a knife at mealtimes.
- Member of the enthusiastic management team are ambitious about providing high-quality care and learning experiences. They have high expectations for all children. The manager reflects on practice and includes staff and parents in the self-evaluation process.
- The manager monitors staff's performance effectively. She provides effective support for their professional development that focuses on providing the best possible outcomes for all children.
- There are effective systems for monitoring children's progress and providing swift intervention when they need extra help.
- Staff embrace the diverse cultural backgrounds of the children and families who use the nursery. They offer a broad range of activities to help children learn about different faiths and cultures, and support them to use their home languages in the nursery.
- Parents are very happy with the nursery and appreciate the regular information they receive about their children's learning. They comment that the staff are kind and caring and work well as a team. Parents state that their children 'constantly make progress'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a sound knowledge of the signs, symptoms and indicators of abuse. They know how to make a referral to the relevant agencies in the event of a concern about a child's welfare. Staff have an up-to-date knowledge and understanding of wider safeguarding issues. For example, they know how to identify and respond to concerns relating to children at possible risk of radicalisation and extremist behaviours. Management follows safer recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of staff and takes steps to assess their ongoing suitability.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide enough space for children to participate fully in activities
- review the organisation of lunchtime routines in the room for two-year-old children so that they do not have to wait unnecessarily.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY444225
Local authority	Warwickshire
Inspection number	10131253
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 to 4
Total number of places	97
Number of children on roll	137
Name of registered person	The Midcounties Co-Operative Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900862
Telephone number	01926 430002
Date of previous inspection	1 April 2016

Information about this early years setting

Little Pioneers nursery & pre-school, Leamington Spa registered in 2012. The nursery employs 36 members of childcare staff. Of these, 33 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year around. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection activities

- The inspector, baby room leader and deputy manager completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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