

Inspection of Little Flames Childcare

2 The Brow, Huntingdon PE29 3RA

Inspection date: 7 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settle quickly in the homely and nurturing environment. Staff welcome children warmly and encourage them to choose their activity from a broad range of toys and resources. Children show that they feel safe and secure. They confidently talk to staff and visitors. Staff are kind and attentive to ensure children's individual needs are met. They provide children with reassurance should they feel upset.

Children behave well. Staff create a positive atmosphere where each child is truly valued. They provide children with consistent reminders that help them understand what is expected. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement. This helps them to build good levels of self-esteem. Staff promote equality throughout their practice. Children learn about their similarities and differences. They develop respect towards each other, staff and the environment.

Staff know children well and are eager to help them to learn and develop. They carefully plan the learning environment to reflect each child's individual stage of development and their emerging interests. Children are engaged in purposeful play and develop positive attitudes to learning. This helps to prepare children for the next stage in their learning and the eventual move to school.

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

- Staff work well in partnership with parents. They share regular information about children's progress in their learning and development. They provide parents with ideas to support their child's ongoing learning at home. Parents share their child's achievements from home on postcards that children take into the nursery. Parents are positive about staff and the nursery and state that they feel well informed about their child's day and the progress they make.
- Staff are professional, kind and courteous. They work very well as a team. Leaders are committed to helping staff develop their knowledge and skills and gain professional qualifications. They are supportive and help staff to maintain a good balance in their work and home life.
- Staff working with babies have a good understanding of how to support their needs. They work closely with parents to follow children's home routines and help them to settle in. Babies are happy and confident explorers. They have plenty of space to support their physical development. Staff ensure their needs are promptly met. They follow babies' interests and help them to name the toys and animals they see in books and jigsaw puzzles.
- Children have good opportunities to be active outside. Staff follow children's lead in play. For instance, they provide magnifying glasses and pictures of insects when children start to look for bugs. Staff help children to look under logs in the

garden and encourage them to compare the lengths of worms they find. Children record their findings on clipboards. They count two worms and discuss the similarities and differences between worms and snails.

- Staff work well with other professionals and make good use of a range of strategies that help children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. For instance, they use pictures and symbols of the daily routine to support children's understanding.
- Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills. Staff encourage children to put on their coats and shoes to play outside. Children pour their choice of milk or water at snack and meal times. They clear away their plates when they have finished eating.
- Staff place a strong emphasis on helping children build good literacy skills. Children show good listening and attention as staff read stories in group time. They join in with songs and continue to sing as they play and explore. Staff provide children with a wide range of opportunities to make marks and explore different media. Children choose books to take home and share with their parents each week.
- Although the manager has systems in place to support and monitor the quality of teaching, sometimes staff do not recognise how to challenge children to help them to achieve at the highest levels.
- Staff are enthusiastic about their role to help children learn and develop. However, sometimes they do not give children enough time to think and share their ideas and thoughts.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff receive regular training and updates about safeguarding and child protection issues. They confidently fulfil their role to protect children from harm. Staff know the possible indicators that a child may be at risk of abuse. They know what to do should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of wider safeguarding concerns, such as the risks to children of being exposed to extreme views or behaviours. Leaders follow robust recruitment processes that help to assure the suitability of adults working with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on the existing arrangements for supervision and support of staff to enhance the quality of teaching further and provide children with higher levels of challenge in their learning and development
- give children enough time to think and respond to questions and statements so they may share their thoughts and ideas.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2519374
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10134095
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 to 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Little Flames Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2519373
Telephone number	07561169302
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Flames Childcare registered in 2019. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Gail Warnes

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the manager and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- A joint observation was completed with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the owner. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of the staff working in the nursery.
- A number of parents spoke to the inspector and their views were taken into account.

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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