

Inspection of Little Stacks Day Nursery

White Stacks Farm, Fleckney Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicester LE8 0HJ

Inspection date: 21 July 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children have adapted well to changes made to the way they arrive at the nursery, due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. They happily leave their parents at the main door and quickly settle to play. Staff have high expectations of children's abilities and encourage them to be independent. Children make choices about what they want to play with and how they want to use the wide range of toys and equipment available. They serve themselves snack and confidently pour their own drinks.

Children are developing a keen interest in the natural world. They enjoy going on walks on the farm to see the pigs, sheep, alpacas and chickens. Children confidently explain to the inspector that chickens lay eggs and the eggs hatch into chicks that grow into chickens. They tell the inspector that there is a new baby alpaca on the farm, who is very tiny.

Children are supported to behave well. Any challenging behaviour is managed quickly and sensitively by staff. Children build meaningful friendships and enjoy each other's company. They happily include others in their play. They work together to fill containers with water, which they then pour onto the grass in the garden to create puddles, so that they can jump and splash in them together.

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

- The manager has been proactive in addressing the weaknesses identified at the previous inspection. She regularly seeks feedback from staff, parents and children to help inform plans for improvement. Staff receive effective inductions, supervision and coaching. They understand their responsibility to promote children's learning and safeguard children's welfare.
- The nursery is fully inclusive and effective at supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff work in close partnership with a range of services to ensure that all children and families receive the support they need to make good progress.
- The staff know the children in their care well. They precisely identify what they can do, and what they need to learn next. The curriculum is well planned to offer children a wide range of experiences based on their interests. However, some of the less experienced staff are less clear about the curriculum intention and what skills and knowledge they want children to learn.
- Parents speak very positively about the care that their children receive at the nursery. They comment that the staff ensure that they are kept informed about their child's day via their online learning journals and by having daily conversations with them at drop off and collection times. Parents understand what areas of their child's learning and development are currently being

supported and how they can help their child develop and practise new skills at home. However, staff do not encourage parents to read with their child at home.

- Children continually engage in conversation with staff and their friends, Staff speak clearly to children and pronounce words correctly. Staff question pre-school aged children and give children time to think and respond. Staff sensitively extend children's vocabulary, introducing them to new words, such as the names of the baby animals that live on the farm. Makaton signs are used to support toddlers emerging language. Children confidently sing and sign their favourite songs.
- Staff support children to develop their thinking skills. Children experiment as they mix different colour chinks together to create new colours. They predict and recall the changes that will happen, drawing on their past experiences of mixing colours. Children have good concentration skills and persevere in activities for extended periods of times.
- Staff provide children with ample opportunities to increase their physical skills and to be outdoors in the fresh air. Children eagerly explore the natural environment and learn how to manage risks. They tell the inspector that they need to wear sun hats and put on sun cream on hot days as the sun bites their skin. Staff plan activities and outings to help broaden the experiences children get at home. They watch the farmer as he uses a combine harvester to harvest crops and cut the tall grass to make hay bales.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their role and responsibility to keep children safe from harm. They can describe the signs and symptoms of abuse and know who to report any concerns to. Staff understand the action they should take if they are concerned about the conduct of another member of staff or manager. Staff complete daily safety checks and continuously assess the environment for risks. They remove any hazards as soon as they are identified. Staff supervise children well and teach them to keep themselves safe. Children know that they should not run inside and that they should not climb on furniture.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop less experienced staff's knowledge of the curriculum intent, so that they are clear about the skills and knowledge they want children to learn
- encourage and support parents to foster their child's love of books and stories at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY545697
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10149281
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Little Stacks Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP545696
Telephone number	01162792002
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2020

Information about this early years setting

Little Stacks Day Nursery registered in 2017 and is located in Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Teresa Lester

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the manager received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and discussed how the curriculum supports children's learning.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning
- The inspector spoke with children during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff. She reviewed a sample of documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the setting.
- The inspector held discussions with parents 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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