

Inspection of Little Learners Childcare (N.E.) Limited

ST CUTHBERTS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Lovaine Place, North Shields NE29 0BU

Inspection date:

7 December 2021

Overall effectiveness**Good**

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children very much enjoy their time at the nursery. They happily leave their parents on arrival to quickly engage in their play. Children of all ages quickly develop warm and affectionate attachments with staff, who actively help them to feel safe and gain emotional security. Children enthusiastically explore the environment. They are confident and independent learners. All children, regardless of their age, can easily select the toys they want to use from low-level shelving. This helps them to independently choose what they would like to play with. Staff implement a consistent positive approach to managing children's behaviour. This helps children to understand boundaries, behave well and have good attitudes to their learning.

Children have immense fun as they explore with real items within the role-play area. They show team spirit as they help each other to cut fruit and vegetables and make soup. Children show pride in their efforts and constantly receive praise and encouragement from staff. They enjoy listening to stories. Children collectively choose the story as they vote using counters. They giggle with delight at the story and older children predict the ending. Children are beginning to identify their name as they write letters to Santa.

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

- Children are well behaved. Staff give children gentle reminders that help them to understand the impact of their actions on others. Older children learn how to self-regulate their behaviour. They settle disputes to ensure that everyone has a turn playing with a favourite toy. Children are polite and remember to say please and thank you to staff and each other at appropriate times.
- Overall, staff have high expectations of what every child can achieve. They, generally, have a good understanding of how children learn. Staff make effective use of individual children's observations and assessments. They take account of children's interests and next steps in learning to plan a range of activities. However, at times, staff do not provide extra challenge for children and build on what they already know and can do, in order to extend their learning to the highest possible level.
- Staff place a great emphasis on supporting children's communication and language skills. They provide children from the youngest age with opportunities to practise their vocal skills and use their voices. Staff model language to children and introduce new words to children. However, at times, staff do not consistently provide children with the opportunity to think critically for themselves, test out ideas and solve problems.
- Staff understand the importance of working on children's physical skills before they can learn to hold a pen or write. Children have access to wide range of

activities to support these skills. They experiment with painting and making marks on large sheets and dig in the sand. They develop their large- and small-motor skills as they play.

- The manager has a clear understanding of her staff team. She has supported them extremely well through the COVID-19 pandemic and staff work together. Children are supported as they are encouraged by staff to develop their skills for the future. Staff have access to training. They embrace training and implement new approaches. For example, staff have adapted how they organise baking activities following advice. This reflects staff's ability and commitment to improvement.
- Partnerships with parents is a real strength of the nursery and they are highly valued as partners. From the initial visit, staff work closely with parents to gather a wealth of information to ensure continuity from home. Parents are kept very well informed about every aspect of their children's progress. They are encouraged to contribute to their children's learning at home. Staff share these contributions with children which helps to support children's self-esteem.
- Parents speak very positively about the nursery. They comment that staff go above and beyond, and that their children are excited to attend. Parents comment that 'the little learners family' supports children to thrive under the care, attentions and nurture of the whole staff team.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a very sound knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe. The manager has rigorous and robust recruitment procedures in place for all staff. Staff are supported through training on various aspects of safeguarding during their induction, and through additional training and staff meetings. Staff undertake regular risk assessments of the nursery environment and all issues are addressed. Staff support children to understand safety, as children take measured risks in their play. For example, children safely use knives as they cut fruit and vegetables, and staff discuss with them safe practices.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop opportunities to provide extra challenge for children and build on what they already know and can do, to extend their learning to the highest possible level
- offer children more opportunity and time to think critically for themselves, test out ideas and problem solve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478318
Local authority	North Tyneside
Inspection number	10131633
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 at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Little Learners Childcare (N.E.) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533743
Telephone number	07521286721
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

Little Learners Childcare (N.E.) Limited registered in 2014. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including two with level 6. The nursery opens during term time from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider
- The manager carried out a learning walk with the inspector. They discussed the learning environment and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector observed and evaluated an activity with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The views of parents were gathered through written feedback.

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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