

Inspection of Little Acorns

55 New Cheltenham Road, Bristol, South Gloucestershire BS15 1TN

Inspection date: 23 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
------------------------------	--------------------

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are happy and thrive at this exceptional setting. They develop wonderful relationships with the staff. Children demonstrate that they feel happy, safe and secure. They explore their environment with enthusiasm, delighting in exploring real-life construction materials. Babies explore their environment with enthusiasm and channel their energy into the exploration of the exciting activities available. Children's experiences are meaningful.

Children make rapid progress from their individual starting points. From an early age, children gain confidence in their physical skills. Children thrive from challenge and learn about personal risk management. For example, they climb the outdoor equipment and jump with confidence.

Staff plan an ambitious curriculum which covers all areas of children's learning and development. Staff value and respect children's opinions and listen carefully when children speak to them. Children's behaviour is exceptional. They are kind and considerate towards each other. For example, children delight in playing in 'Btingham Palace'. They pass the tools to their friends. Children show high levels of enjoyment as they play and learn.

Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) exceptionally well. The manager and staff use the additional funding to ensure that children achieve the very best possible outcomes. As a result, all children make excellent progress from their individual starting points.

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

- Leaders are ambitious at this friendly nursery. The manager values staff and uses robust procedures to support their well-being. Staff state that their colleagues are their 'work family'. The manager ensures that all staff receive regular supervision meetings and, as a result, practitioner's knowledge is developed over time.
- Staff develop warm and nurturing relationships with children. Settling-in sessions are effective and meaningful. Staff use these sessions exceptionally well, which enables them to know children's interests. As a consequence, children are happy and thrive in their environment.
- This is a language-rich environment. Children handle books with care and partake in storytelling with gusto. The most amazing storytelling is told, and staff use role play for children to be able to tell the story themselves. Staff model language extremely well and children show a very high level of engagement.
- Leaders and staff use their observations of children well. They identify how

children learn best and plan learning experiences that build on what children already know, do and can remember. For example, children manipulate construction materials and use tools. This helps to develop the muscles they will need for later writing.

- Children are very independent and staff encourage this. Children know how to serve and chop their own fruit. Snack time is social and enjoyable for all. Children serve themselves wholesome and nutritious food. Staff are responsive to children's needs.
- Staff ensure children fully understand their expectations for behaviour. Children take turns, share resources and work together during activities. Staff praise children, telling them exactly what they have done well. Children are clear about what they have done or achieved. Children recognise the need for 'kind hands and walking feet'.
- Staff have an amazing rapport with all children. Children delight in activities and have a high level of self-esteem. Staff encourage children and use positive praise. Staff nurture children in this setting.
- All children, including those with SEND, make exceptional progress. The special educational needs coordinator works closely with the local authority, staff, parents and external professionals, using detailed assessments of children's individual needs. Staff skilfully implement children's individual education plans to close any gaps in children's learning.
- Children learn about the world around them and benefit greatly from these opportunities. Children take part in local events. This helps to improve their understanding of the wider world and sparks their curiosity. For example, staff talked about the life and reign of the queen. Children took flowers to lay at the local park memorial in her memory. High priority is given to the children's emotional support. When children feel frustrated, they know they can use the cosy sensory space to help them calm down.
- Babies and the youngest children form secure attachments with their key person. They learn in a calm and peaceful environment and have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the stimulating outdoor environment. Babies use sign language to develop their early communication skills and practitioners are very responsive to their needs.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers fully understand their role and responsibilities. All staff are fully aware of what to do if they have concerns about the welfare of a child. All staff, including the newest, have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the wider issues that may affect the safety and well-being of children. The manager has robust recruitment and induction procedures. Staff receive high-quality training. Staff are confident and know how to recognise and respond to signs of abuse. Staff carry out daily risk assessments that ensure children remain safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY305073
Local authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10234920
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Little Acorns Day Nursery Bristol Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910944
Telephone number	0117 9606537
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

Little Acorns registered in 2005 and is located in Kingswood, Bristol. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3 or level 4. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Rosie Pool

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 setting.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector, the manager and the special educational needs coordinator completed a learning walk together to discuss all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to several 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022