

Inspection of Little Argonauts Pre-School

29 Cedars Avenue, COVENTRY CV6 1DQ

Inspection date: 21 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children come into pre-school happy and are greeted warmly. As a result, they are confident to separate from their parents with ease. Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure in their surroundings. Staff are positive role models and are very caring.

Children behave well and show a good understanding of the pre-school expectations. For example, children discuss the rules and why they are important. Children learn how to share and take turns. Staff support children to manage their own feelings and emotions. Children are encouraged to be independent. For example, they wash their own hands and try to put on dressing-up clothes in the role-play area. Staff support children as they learn to make choices during their play.

Staff observe and assess children effectively and clearly identify their next steps in learning. They also take into account the mixed ages and abilities and plan for each group separately. This means that children make good progress in their learning. Children are eager to join in and quickly choose an activity from the variety made available to them. Children are curious as they explore. For example, they investigate a collection of pine cones. They ask questions about their shape and where they come from and look at pictures of squirrels.

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

- The staff team work hard to maintain strong partnerships with parents, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff work closely with them to find out about their children when they first start. They use an online system which shows what the children have done in pre-school. Staff carry out observations and assessments and use them to ensure children make good progress.
- The manager supports the staff team to develop their own skills and knowledge. She monitors staff well and they have a wide variety of training opportunities. This strengthens their knowledge further. Staff comment that they feel well supported. They receive regular supervision meetings to support their professional development.
- Staff demonstrate a good understanding of how their children learn and develop. They gather information about children and their interests from home during their initial visits. They then use this information to provide a wide range of activities.
- Staff develop children's mathematical skills through play. They support learning and provide more challenge wherever possible. For example, children count how many scoops of sand they need to fill a container. They discuss the size and shape of the containers. Older children use vocabulary, such as 'full' and 'empty'

as they play.

- Children develop the essential skills that they need in readiness for school. For example, they develop independence as staff encourage and support children to attempt tasks. At snack time, they attempt to peel their own fruit and pour their own water or milk.
- Children go outside often during the day and enjoy physical play. They develop balancing skills on tyres and crates. They go up steps on the slide and climb on the climbing frame. They are confident running and jumping in the large garden area. Children use scissors for junk modelling and are starting to make good progress using one-handed tools. Older children are developing a comfortable grip when using pencils and crayons as they draw and write.
- Children sing songs and rhymes and happily join in with the actions as they sing about 'the wheels on the bus'. Children enjoy looking at books. Older children recognise familiar stories and join in with repeated phrases. However, staff do not consistently model vocabulary or explain the meaning of new words to further extend and strengthen children's understanding.
- Staff plan a good range of activities that engage children's imagination. Children explore dinosaurs in sand and make a pretend 'volcano' together. However, younger children do not have as many opportunities to explore a range of different textures and materials.
- Children enjoy taking part in additional activities led by outside professionals, such as drama sessions. This helps to extend and support children's imaginations.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The premises are safe, clean and secure. The provider ensures appropriate risk assessments are implemented effectively by staff and this minimises any risks to children. Staff are all first-aid trained. The provider has created a positive safeguarding culture. The manager and staff team recognise the signs of abuse and neglect. They know the local referral procedures and appropriate professionals to refer to if they have a concern. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and there is a thorough induction process in place. The supervision process ensures all staff remain suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide all children with opportunities to explore different textures and materials in their play
- help staff to understand how to fully extend and model new vocabulary to further promote children's understanding of words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY479684
Local authority	Coventry
Inspection number	10236404
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 at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Lobban, Martina
Registered person unique reference number	RP516291
Telephone number	07513350853
Date of previous inspection	26 January 2017

Information about this early years setting

Little Argonauts Pre-school was registered in 2014 and is in Coventry. It employs seven members of childcare staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications. The manager is qualified at level 6 and other staff hold qualifications at level 2 or 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Clare Walton

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 management team and the inspector completed a learning walk together to look at how the curriculum is planned to meet children's needs and development.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A meeting was held with the inspector and the management team to discuss leadership and management arrangements.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and checked evidence of the suitability of the staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children, and took account of parents' views about the provision.

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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