

Inspection of Little Acorns (Colleton) Pre-school

ABC Building, Colleton Drive, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 0AX

Inspection date: 15 December 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children settle extremely well. Staff have an in-depth understanding of their key-person roles, and this ensures that children feel safe and secure. Children are reassured throughout the day by nurturing staff. Children visibly enjoy cuddles with them.

Children are exceptionally motivated and eager to learn in the welcoming and well-maintained environment. Staff have high expectations for the children to achieve. They provide a rich and varied curriculum tailored to children's individual needs and abilities. For example, children wrap up parcels with Christmas paper; they independently use sticky tape and scissors as they work out how much paper they will need. When the paper they have cut is not big enough, staff challenge the children to think about what they need to do next to solve the problem. Children take time to think and respond to the challenge and are delighted when they solve the problem independently.

Children make the most of the exceptionally well-resourced outside area. Staff skilfully adapt it to children's individual needs and interests. For example, when staff observe children transporting soil from the mud kitchen to the role-play kitchen area, they relocate the resource, enabling children to fully build on their interests.

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

- The buzz of learning is evident in every part of the pre-school. This highly inclusive setting makes sure that all children make progress no matter how small the steps. Parents of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are incredibly positive about the pre-school.
- The manager and deputy managers are inspirational to the staff, leading by example. There are excellent procedures in place to make sure that staff have regular meetings on an individual and group basis. Training opportunities are provided on a variety of subjects to help staff in their role. For example, staff have recently attended training to increase their understanding of autism. They are using the information they have gained to improve outcomes for children, such as planning new experiences and resources. Staff place the child at the centre of every discussion and decision. This attention to detail ensures that all children, including children with SEND, achieve the best possible outcomes.
- Staff are very clear about what they want children to achieve, and they work in excellent partnership with parents to ensure children's well-being and development are supported at home. Behaviour is excellent. Children are aware of the impact their behaviour can have on others, and this is demonstrated, as all children play cooperatively together.

- Staff develop children's imagination and confidence in unique ways. For example, children make up their own stories using props provided for them in a basket. As they choose well-known characters, they tell a member of staff what is happening. The story is scripted by a member of staff, who theatrically reads it back to the children. Children are incredibly proud of their stories and eagerly wait their turn to do the activity again.
- Children are encouraged to be highly independent. They manage their own lunch bags, needing little help from adults. Children feel a sense of pride when they have achieved something they have been working on. For example, they show pride when they are able to put their own coats on and write their name.
- Staff gather detailed reports from parents when children first start, to identify what children already know and can do. Parents are extremely complimentary about the pre-school. They praise the settling-in period and are delighted with the 'rapid progress' their children make.
- Staff report feeling very supported, commenting that the manager listens to their views. The manager monitors staff's workloads and regularly evaluates when any changes need to be put in place. Staff feel this is beneficial to their well-being and mental health.
- Staff expertly bring stories to life. Children are highly attentive and join in with rhyming refrains and predict storylines. Children learn about sounds and how they can make sounds with their bodies. For example, they 'stomp' and 'stamp' like dinosaurs and 'roar' and 'snap'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have an in-depth knowledge of how to keep children safe. They are aware of signs and symptoms of different forms of abuse and understand how to record disclosures accurately and in a timely manner. They know who to contact if they have a concern about a colleague, following the setting's whistle-blowing policy. Staff understand and know the signs of safeguarding issues, such as county lines, female genital mutilation and radicalisation. Leaders ensure that staff's safeguarding knowledge is up to date during supervision sessions and staff meetings. They support staff in a detailed induction process and complete vetting procedures to check their suitability to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2601997
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10251588
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Little Acorns (Colleton) Pre-school CIO
Registered person unique reference number	2601998
Telephone number	01189321629
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Acorns (Colleton) Pre-School CIO registered in 2020. It is located in Twyford, Berkshire. It opens Monday to Thursday, from 8.45am to 5.45pm, and on Friday, from 8.45am to 3.15pm, term time only. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three-and four-years old. A total of 20 members of staff are employed to work with children, 17 of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications. The manager and four staff hold qualified teacher status, and a further 11 staff hold a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Chris Lamey

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 and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times 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.

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