

Inspection of Little Lambs Childcare

Little Lambs Nursery, Valley House, Tatenhill Common, Rangemore, Burton-on-trent DE13 9RS

Inspection date: 8 June 2023

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 are happy and separate from parents with ease. They enjoy coming into the well-resourced nursery, where they can independently choose what activities to complete or what resources to play with. Staff are kind and nurturing. Lots of cuddles are given to babies. Some are rocked in the arms of staff as they fall asleep. Children feel safe and secure. They are confident and happily share their experiences with new people. Babies enjoy exploring play dough, as they squish and squeeze it through their fingers. They play peekaboo with staff through pop-up tunnels and crawl through, giggling with their friends.

Toddlers enjoy transporting sand and creating their own imaginary beach. They help to make and explore sticky slime. They take pride in their achievements and staff reward them with praise. This helps to build their self-esteem. Pre-school children enjoy participating in activities designed to build their small-muscle skills, ready for pencil control and writing. They use tweezers to try and pick up buttons. Staff are skilful in interacting to introduce other areas of learning, such as mathematics. Children work out how many more buttons are needed to complete their task. All children enjoy time outdoors in the excellent outdoor space the provider has created from them. They practise their large-muscle skills as they walk along balance beams or ride tricycles. Children are encouraged to manage their own risk safely.

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

- The provider, who is also the manager, and her staff have worked hard to address the weakness identified at the last inspection. Training has been provided and staff deployment is effective in ensuring children are supervised.
- Effective monitoring of staff ensures the quality of teaching is consistently good. The provider and staff complete reflection sheets, reviewing what went well and how they can continually provide activities which enhance the quality of the experiences provided for children.
- The provider's curriculum centres around the children. It is designed to continually build on their skills and knowledge. Children make good progress and become successful learners. They learn skills to equip them to be ready for their transition into other rooms, and eventual move onto school.
- Staff know the children very well and plan activities in line with their interests. For example, children show an interest in minibeasts and insects, so staff introduce a life cycle of a caterpillar. Children have been caring for the caterpillars and watch as one emerges from its chrysalis. Children tell the inspector it is a 'painted lady butterfly'.
- Children demonstrate high levels of engagement at their chosen activity. Children partake in a question of the day. They decide together the question

they want to know, such as 'do crabs have teeth?' or 'if caterpillars eat different coloured leaves, does this impact on the colour of the butterfly?' Staff then look the question up on an electronic device and find the answer for the children.

- A love of literacy is promoted throughout the nursery. All age groups of children participate in stories. This helps to strengthen communication and language skills. Younger children have laminated masks of characters from the story. This helps to support them be involved. Staff ask pre-school children questions about the story to promote them to use their critical thinking skills. However, on occasion, in group activities, children who do not have as much confidence are not always supported well enough to participate. This results in them not joining in or not being heard.
- Good hygiene practices ensure that children learn the importance of washing their hands. Children benefit from healthy snacks and cooked meals. Daily routines help children understand when it is time to tidy up, get ready for lunch or to go outside. However, the organisation of the transitions between different activities sometimes results in children standing or waiting for periods time. This results in children becoming restless and not accessing the curriculum on offer. That said, overall children behave well.
- Parents comment that their children really enjoy coming to the nursery and they are learning lots. They particularly like the 'homely' feel of the nursery, and that children are encouraged to be independent and learn to do things for themselves. Detailed information is shared regularly with parents. Parents also comment that they like that the provider, and that staff are very friendly and approachable.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a robust knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. They are aware of the signs and symptoms which may indicate a child is at risk of harm or likely to suffer from harm. All staff know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children in their care. The provider ensures that staff attend regular training, which helps to keep their knowledge up to date. The provider and her staff hold appropriate qualifications in paediatric first aid. This means they can respond appropriately in a medical emergency. Effective risk assessments, indoors and outdoors, ensure that the premises are suitable and safe for children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the organisation of daily routines to make sure children are able to consistently access the curriculum
- help staff to support further those children who may have less confidence than

others, to be able to share their thoughts and ideas in group activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2616297
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10278376
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	65
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	C E Barker Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP532523
Telephone number	01283 713906
Date of previous inspection	24 January 2023

Information about this early years setting

Little Lambs Childcare re-registered in December 2020. The nursery is situated in Tatenhill Common, Rangemore in Burton-on-Trent. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one who holds an appropriate qualification at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Johanna Holt

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 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 provider joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while at nursery.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The provider and the inspector carried out joint observations of group activities.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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