

Little Acorns Childcare

Overstone School, Church Street, Leighton Buzzard, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0NY



Inspection date

30 May 2018

Previous inspection date

14 August 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager has fully addressed the weaknesses identified at the last inspection. She provides staff with effective support, training and feedback. Staff confidently deliver good-quality teaching. Children make good progress during their time at nursery.
- Staff working with babies teach them new skills well. For example, they provide children with well-planned experiences to help them develop their early communication skills.
- Staff organise the day well so that older children's learning is not interrupted unnecessarily. Children enjoy making choices about what to do and show good levels of focus and engagement.
- Children are settled and happy. They build warm attachments with the staff who look after them and display good levels of well-being.
- Staff meet children's care needs well. For example, they are flexible about routines to ensure that babies and very young children can eat and sleep at times which suit their individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to assess the learning that is taking place when children from different groups engage in energetic and self-chosen play. As a result, the manager is not consistently able to identify possible gaps in learning swiftly.
- Staff do not consistently make use of opportunities to encourage children to explore numbers, shapes and other mathematical concepts.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build further on existing monitoring practice to ensure that any gaps in attainment between different groups of children, such as boys and girls, are identified and closed even more quickly
- strengthen the teaching of mathematical concepts and ideas to help children make further progress in their mathematical development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff about their understanding of child protection, safeguarding and first aid.
- The inspector took account of the views of children and parents.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including policies and children's records.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The provider carries out a wide range of suitability checks on those employed to work with children. The manager ensures that all staff have the necessary knowledge to respond to any concerns about a child's welfare in order to keep children safe. The manager has worked effectively with other professionals to review and improve the provision. For example, she improved the use of resources to provide all children with an interesting and stimulating learning environment. Staff value the closer focus on their performance. Since the last inspection, staff have used training to improve the teaching of speaking and encouraging children's listening skills. Staff work well with parents. For example, they find out detailed information about the skills that children already have when they start so that they can plan effectively to meet their individual needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan well for each child's learning. They deliver good-quality teaching that is tailored to the needs of each child. For example, they use resources well to provide lots of opportunities for babies to practise their crawling and early walking skills. They support toddlers' physical development well. For example, they show them how to use tools to make marks in foam and sand, and encourage them to use climbing equipment and wheeled toys outdoors. Staff build on older children's interests well to extend their existing skills. For example, they use children's interest in dinosaurs to encourage children to draw pictures and write simple words to extend their early literacy skills. Throughout the nursery, staff use an effective mix of questions and comments to encourage children to share their ideas and develop their speaking skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children confidently go about their day. Older children show good levels of independence in meeting their own needs. They enjoy taking on roles of responsibility, such as when chosen to help prepare the room for mealtimes. All children behave well for their ages. Staff adapt what they do well to ensure that all children can join in and enjoy nursery. For example, they provide targeted support for children who need extra help. Staff are good role models and show children, by example, how to be tolerant and kind.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those who need additional support, make good progress from their starting points. Babies and toddlers learn to control their movements, to express their views and to manage developmentally appropriate tasks for themselves. As the start of school approaches, older children learn to think for themselves and to solve problems. All children develop a positive view of learning and to be tolerant and respectful of others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY441452
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1111918
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 7
Total number of places	97
Number of children on roll	114
Name of registered person	Kids Activ8 Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531351
Date of previous inspection	14 August 2017
Telephone number	01296 682822

Little Acorns Childcare registered in 2012. It is located in Wing, Buckinghamshire. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6.30pm, all year round. The nursery also operates a breakfast and after-school club during term times and a holiday club during the school holidays. There are 21 staff employed to work directly with the children. Of these, the manager holds early years professional status and 11 other members of staff hold relevant qualifications between level 2 and level 6. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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