

Little Friends

Little Friends Nursery, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire, NG2 5AS



Inspection date	9 March 2015
Previous inspection date	19 January 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children's readiness for school is promoted well throughout the nursery. Practitioners work well with the local school to ensure that children are familiar with the environment. In addition, through workshops, parents are supported in understanding the skills children require to be ready for school.
- Babies and children benefit from high quality teaching that enables them to make good progress in all areas of learning.
- Practitioners establish warm, nurturing relationships with all the babies and children. As a result, they are happy, content and have good levels of confidence.
- Babies and children are effectively safeguarded. This is because practitioners are well informed about child protection issues and know how to keep babies and children safe.
- The manager is reflective and drives improvement well. She demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting a high-quality provision.
- Parents speak highly of the manager and practitioners stating they are friendly, committed and have created a 'home from home environment'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are occasionally not involved in purposeful play and learning because the organisation of hand washing takes too long.
- Practitioners sometimes give toddlers ready-made templates and select the materials for toddlers to use during craft activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of hand washing so that children are able to spend more time being involved in play and learning
- allow toddlers more freedom and choice to express their own creativity as they explore and use media and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation.
- The inspector spoke with practitioners and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children and discussed the provider's improvement plans.
- The inspector held joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Dawn Larkin

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Teaching is consistently good and some practice is outstanding. Practitioners have a clear understanding of babies' and children's individual needs. This is because they make good use of regular observations of babies' and children's achievements. Practitioners use this information to plan activities that interest them and extend their learning. Pre-school children's creativity is promoted effectively because practitioners encourage them to explore the process of making things. In addition, pre-school children are given a wide range of materials to select from. However, on occasions when toddlers are creating models, they are given a limited choice of colours and materials. As a result, the finished product becomes more important than the process of creating it. This does not effectively support toddlers in their developing creativity. Babies and children benefit from the practitioners' highly positive involvement during their play. This excites and motivates them to become fully involved in their play and learning. However, the organisation of some routines, such as hand washing, does not support children to be fully involved in purposeful play. This is because whole groups of children go to wash their hands at the same time.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Babies and children settle quickly at nursery because practitioners are skilled at supporting the move from home to the nursery. Older children are involved in talking about risks in their play, which supports their understanding of keeping safe. In addition, it promotes children's good behaviour because they understand the consequences of their actions. Precise praise and encouragement is used by all practitioners to support children's self-esteem and well-being. Practitioners have created an environment that is welcoming and thoughtfully arranged to promote children's independence. Together with everyday routines, children and babies are given many opportunities to practise these important self-help skills. All children enjoy daily fresh air in the well-resourced outdoor area. Meals are freshly prepared on site, healthy and nutritious. This promotes a healthy lifestyle.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and her leadership is strong. The provision for children's learning has improved since the last inspection. This is because the manager and her dedicated team have successfully addressed all the recommendations. The educational programmes are monitored well by the manager who effectively supports practitioners as and when necessary. The vast majority of practitioners are well qualified and their professional development is encouraged through attending training and obtaining further qualifications. This ensures outcomes for children are constantly improving. A thorough improvement plan is in place which effectively takes account the views of parents, children and practitioners. Their views are implemented to improve the learning and well-being for the children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY320857
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	856941
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Little Friends (Nottingham) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2011
Telephone number	01159818040

Little Friends was registered in 2006. It is privately owned. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including the deputy with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens, from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of years. Sessions are from 7.30 am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two, three- and four-year-old children.

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