

Little Oaks Nursery

92 High Street, Kimberley, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG16 2PD



Inspection date	28 October 2015
Previous inspection date	12 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 nursery provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere. There is a culture of positivity throughout the setting and the dedicated and long serving staff team work extremely well together.
- Children's well-being is very well promoted. Staff work closely with parents to arrange personalised settling-in sessions for children who are new to the setting. Likewise, children are well prepared for their transitions within the setting and to school.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Staff keep parents well informed of all aspects of their children's care and education. Furthermore, the leadership team are quick to take on board any suggestions from parents about how the nursery can be improved.
- Overall, the quality of teaching is good and, occasionally, outstanding. Children have access to a stimulating and well-resourced environment, both indoors and outside. Staff offer a broad range of activities, which cover all areas of learning. Children make good progress in their learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The programme of professional development does not fully support staff to constantly improve their knowledge, understanding and practice to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the programme of professional development to support all staff to deliver excellent teaching practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Josie Mapes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team are a driving force behind a dedicated and experienced staff team. The nursery has good procedures in place for recruitment. Staff are supervised and monitored with appropriate targets set to support them in their professional development. They undertake regular training both in-house and with the local authority. However, the staff development programme does not yet focus sufficiently on extending their teaching skills to the very highest level. This is to help them deliver consistently high-quality teaching. The educational programme is effectively monitored by the management team so that children have suitably challenging activities to promote their learning. This ensures that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and responded to. All staff are involved in setting targets for improvement across the nursery and there is a clear plan for future improvement. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All members of staff have a clear understanding of what to do if they are worried about a child in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team have a secure knowledge and understanding of how children learn. Children are encouraged to explore and extend their learning through adding equipment into their play. For example, children playing outside in rain puddles ask staff to put bubbles into the water. Children then extend this play by adding lots of different toys into the water to see which ones create the biggest bubbles. Staff join in enthusiastically with children's play, supporting their communication and social skills. Staff understand and implement the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They complete ongoing observations and assessments of children and frequently discuss with parents how they can support their child's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

An effective key-person system supports children's well-being. Staff communicate clearly with each other to ensure that any information, which may affect children's day, is passed on quickly. Transition within the nursery is managed exceptionally well. Children take a vote on what they would like the role-play area to look like in their new classroom. This helps to give them a sense of ownership in a new and unfamiliar environment. Partnerships with other agencies are strong. Staff work closely with local schools to ensure that children have a smooth and happy move to school. Children have good opportunities to be active and to learn about healthy lifestyles. The use of a vegetable plot in the outdoor area helps children learn how to plant, grow and harvest their own vegetables. Children enjoy a variety of healthy meals and snacks and are encouraged to have good table manners from an early age. Staff are good role models for children and behaviour is positively managed.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well from their starting points and are well prepared for school. Their starting points are identified well and any gaps in learning are quickly addressed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	258581
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	854927
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	133
Name of provider	Linda Jayne Birkin
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2011
Telephone number	0115 9382022

Little Oaks Nursery was registered in 1998. The nursery employs 26 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 51 weeks a year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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