

Little Stars Day Nursery

39 Penn Hill Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH14 9LU



Inspection date

11 November 2015

Previous inspection date

26 January 2015

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

- Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment, where children learn through play and meaningful experiences.
- From a young age, children build close and trusting relationships with staff and one another. Staff support children effectively as they move on to the next stage of their learning.
- Children make good progress. Staff and management monitor children's development well and quickly identify and address any gaps in children's learning. Staff use their observations effectively to plan a broad range of activities linked to children's interests and next steps in learning.
- Effective partnerships with parents and other professionals enable staff to meet children's individual needs well. Parents comment positively about the support and reassurance they receive from staff.
- Leaders' self-evaluation benefits the children and includes the views of staff, parents, children and outside agencies. For example, communication with parents about their children's learning has improved and methods for sharing children's progress records with parents have been developed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not always have enough opportunity to hear and use the names of shapes during their play.
- Children between the ages of two and three years do not always have enough opportunity or encouragement to extend their ideas and creativity through spontaneous play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to hear and use the names of shapes during their play
- make better use of children's spontaneous play and ideas to further develop their creativity, with particular regard to children aged two to three years.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed children's activities inside and outside.
- The inspectors spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspectors looked at a sample of documents, which included children's progress records and records of children's attendance.
- The inspectors carried out a joint observation and interview with the provider.
- The inspectors took account of parents' views that were obtained in person.

Inspector

Brenda Flewitt

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Management and staff work well as a team; they are enthusiastic and communicate effectively to meet children's welfare and learning needs. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and the correct procedures to follow if they have concerns. There are robust procedures for checking staff suitability to work with children. Management and supervisors monitor staff practice regularly and provide good support and guidance to help staff develop their roles. For example, recent training has increased staff's understanding of the benefit of planning activities linked to children's interests and next steps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's learning and development well. There is a good range of play equipment and resources that children can select independently to extend their own play and learning. Children are keen to take part in a wide range of activities and like to use their senses to explore various objects and materials. For example, during the inspection, babies investigated a range of natural and everyday items. Older children explored different tastes, and used their imaginations as they mixed substances together. Staff promote children's language and thinking skills well. For example, they provide explanations, pose problems and ask purposeful questions; they add pictorial aids for those who are learning to speak. Children learn about changes in nature. For instance, they take part in meaningful activities, such as gardening, and make discoveries during woodland walks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settle quickly. Detailed information from parents enables staff to help children feel secure and develop a strong sense of belonging. Staff praise children consistently and boost their self-esteem and confidence. Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. For example, children make choices from nutritious food options, freshly cooked on the premises. They develop useful skills, such as pouring drinks, preparing food and cleaning equipment. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise every day and regularly practise skills that promote their physical development.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop confidence and independence in practical tasks that help them to care for themselves, such as managing their own clothes. They learn to listen, join in when appropriate and to respect other people. Children start to show an interest in print, such as recognising their written name, and they learn to take responsibility for their own belongings. These skills help children to be well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY219327
Local authority	Poole
Inspection number	1004551
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	118
Name of provider	Little Stars Education Ltd
Date of previous inspection	26 January 2015
Telephone number	01202 741437

Little Stars Day Nursery registered in 2002 and is situated in a residential area of Lower Parkstone, in Poole, Dorset. The nursery is privately owned and operates from a detached house that has been adapted to accommodate the nursery. The accommodation consists of seven playrooms that are set on several different levels. Outdoor play areas are available for all age groups. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.45am until 6pm all year round, except for public holidays and a week at Christmas. There are 29 members of staff. Their qualifications include a teaching qualification, two with Early Years Professional Status, four hold foundation degrees, 15 are qualified at level 3 and five at level 2.

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