

Acorns Day Nursery

Acorns Childrens Centre, Lostock Lane, Lostock, BOLTON, BL6 4BL



Inspection date

5 January 2016

Previous inspection date

12 September 2013

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Satisfactory | 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

- Managers are committed to supporting all staff in continuously enhancing their skills. Staff have regular support through supervisions and ongoing professional development. Staff who work with babies and young children have received specific training to do so.
- Managers use effective systems to monitor the progress of individuals and groups of children. They have established highly effective partnerships with other professionals to ensure parents, carers and children receive the support they need.
- Children are provided with nutritious meals, plenty of exercise and outdoor experiences. There is a wide range of opportunities for children to be able to extend their physical skills. Additionally, attentive staff teach children from an early age to manage their personal hygiene and needs. Children effectively learn to lead healthy lifestyles.
- Staff use their good knowledge of children's interests. They use information from their assessments to plan a good range of activities for children to engage in and to build upon what they can already do. This helps children to gain the key skills needed for their next steps in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always extend opportunities for babies and young children to develop their imagination and exploration skills, particularly outdoors.
- Staff do not always ask all parents to regularly share information about their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for babies and young children to develop their imagination and exploratory skills, particularly in the outdoor area
- extend opportunities for parents to share information about what their children achieve at home and use this to further enhance their learning and development.

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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and the provider. She looked at relevant documentation, including 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

Emma Allison

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers aspire to improve. They have made positive changes since their last inspection. The inclusive and regular self-evaluation takes account of the views of staff, children, parents and others and it is clearly focused on improving practice. Priorities for improvement are quickly identified and appropriate actions are implemented. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Managers and staff demonstrate a thorough understanding of procedures to follow, should there be any concerns about children's welfare. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust. Risk management and daily safety checks are in place to ensure the environment is safe for children. Partnerships with parents and carers are good. Parents are well informed about their children's experiences. They speak highly of the support their children receive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Improvements to observations, planning and assessments provide a clear picture of children's good progress and next steps for their learning. Staff plan a broad range of activities linked to children's interests, both indoors and outside. Children's communication skills are very well supported. Staff enthusiastically read stories that children are familiar with. They pause at intervals to encourage children to join in and encourage repetition and rhyme. Children demonstrate they are engaged in activities and motivated to learn. Staff follow children's interests and provide them with props and puppets. This helps to support children's listening skills. Staff use well-timed questions to encourage children to predict outcomes and to solve their own problems as they play. They also provide opportunities to extend children's early literacy skills. They listen and support children when talking about the marks they make. Staff talk about mathematics in everyday situations and provide collections of objects that children can sort and match in different ways. This helps to support children's mathematical understanding.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form good relationships with dedicated and caring staff. Staff provide comfort, reassurance and support during tailored settling-in sessions. This helps to nurture children's emotional well-being, so that they feel assured and settled on entry to the nursery and as they move between rooms. Staff encourage children to try new activities and develop their skills by boosting their confidence and self-esteem with positive praise and encouragement. They speak to children in a calm and respectful manner, helping them to understand how to manage their own behaviour and make friends. Children are sensitively encouraged to share and take turns. They eagerly help with age-appropriate tasks and efficiently tidy away toys.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress towards the early learning goals. They make independent choices about their play and learning. They are developing confidence to express themselves. Children gain the key skills to support their future learning and for their eventual move to school.

Setting details

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unique reference number | EY399877 |
| Local authority | Bolton |
| Inspection number | 1028596 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register |
| Age range of children | 0 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 78 |
| Number of children on roll | 109 |
| Name of provider | Treetops Nurseries Limited |
| Date of previous inspection | 12 September 2013 |
| Telephone number | 01204 667251 |

Acorns Day Nursery was registered in 2009. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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