

Little Acorns Day Nursery

13 Exbury Road, London, SE6 4NB



Inspection date	30 January 2018
Previous inspection date	7 November 2014

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

- All staff are positive and caring, and provide a very welcoming and nurturing environment. They build strong bonds with children, who feel happy and valued.
- Staff accurately assess children's development and the manager monitors children's progress closely. She checks for any gaps between groups of children, such as boys and girls, and addresses these quickly. Staff plan successfully for children's next steps in learning and offer further support where needed. All children progress well from their developmental starting points.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills successfully and children confidently express themselves. They eagerly join in with daily 'Spanish' sessions and learn new words quickly, such as counting and identifying colours in Spanish.
- Parent partnerships are strong. The manager and staff keep parents fully up to date with their children's development. They regularly share records of what children are learning and ideas for how parents can offer further support at home. Parents comment very positively on the quality of care their children receive.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the manager supports staff well, she does not supervise them closely enough and set precise targets to help raise the good quality of practice to the highest levels.
- Staff do not consistently make the most of the questions they ask children to fully extend their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- supervise staff more closely and offer further support to help raise the quality of practice to the highest level
- make better use of questioning to help fully extend children's learning and support rapid progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practice and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the managers, staff and children.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The dedicated manager reflects carefully on the effectiveness of the nursery. She works well with staff, parents and children to help identify strengths and areas for further improvement. For example, she has recently introduced regular trips to a local nature area where children's outdoor learning is supported by a trained teacher. Children take part in a variety of experiences, such as building with natural objects and cooking on campfires. Overall, the manager effectively supports her staff to develop their practice and encourages further training and childcare qualifications. After recent training, staff introduced new books to support children's positive values, such as respecting each other's differences. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have up-to-date knowledge of how to deal with any child protection concerns and follow strict procedures.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and know the children well. They successfully use children's interests to help provide an engaging and stimulating environment. Children of all ages enthusiastically take part in a wide range of activities. For example, two-year-old children enjoy pretending to look after each other, using the role-play doctor's kit. They confidently talk about needing medicine if they are unwell and using toothpaste to clean their teeth. Staff support pre-school children's mathematical skills well. For example, they teach children number-matching games and encourage them to work out one more and less as they count. Staff use songs skilfully to help build on babies' experiences. For instance, as babies explore toy animals, staff sing songs about visiting the animals in the zoo and babies excitedly join in, making their animal sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very kind and considerate of others. They take great pride in caring for the nursery's pet chicken and rabbits, and talk sensitively about what they need to be happy. Children behave well, are sociable and make strong friendships. They actively include others in their play and happily share their experiences. For example, children ask others if they want to join in with games and kindly share out roles in their imaginary play. Staff are particularly attentive to the care needs of babies and offer them warm affection when needed. Babies settle quickly and feel safe and secure. Staff encourage plenty of outdoor play and children enjoy exercising in the well-resourced garden. They particularly enjoy using the trampoline and develop good balance and coordination.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all ages enjoy their learning and quickly gain the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and for school. Pre-school children are curious about nature. They confidently use magnifying glasses and factual books to help describe and identify toy insects. Two-year-old children are very imaginative and gain good control over creative equipment. Babies walk confidently from an early age and enjoy climbing up and down soft-play ramps. All children are well-motivated, inquisitive and eager learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY462362
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	1071559
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	The Beeches Nursery Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532567
Date of previous inspection	7 November 2014
Telephone number	0208 6909507

Little Acorns Day Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery is open each weekday between 8am and 6pm, all year round. There are 10 members of staff, eight of whom hold relevant qualifications between level 2 and qualified teacher status. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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