

Little Stars Childcare

53b High Street, Stone ST15 8AD



Inspection date	14 August 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The manager is extremely ambitious and committed to providing the best possible learning environment and experiences for children. She has an accurate view of the nurseries strengths and has identified areas for further development.
- Staff treat each child and their family with respect and value their individualities. Good daily handovers and regular summary reports help to keep parents informed about their children's progress. Additionally, staff provide parents with ideas and activities to do with their children at home to help continue their learning.
- Children are independent learners. The well-resourced environment is attractive and inviting to children. This enables children to make decisions about how and where they play.
- Staff encourage children to share and take turns and this helps them to develop good personal and social skills. The staff team use praise well to help children to recognise their strengths, and support them to overcome difficulties.
- Staff confidently promote children's early literacy skills through enjoyable activities.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make precise use of the information gained from observations and assessments to plan as effectively as possible for children's next steps in learning.
- The programme of professional development is not sharply targeted to provide opportunities for staff to enhance their practice and knowledge to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on planning for children's next steps to help children to make even better progress
- enhance performance management to focus more precisely on helping staff to develop their teaching and assessment skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and providers. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the safeguarding and complaints policy. The inspector viewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- 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 manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection. She spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Beverley Devlin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding of child protection and wider safeguarding issues and know the procedure to follow if they have a concern. There are effective recruitment, vetting and induction systems in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The manager makes effective use of information about individual children's stage of development to check on any gaps in learning. Additional support is put in place quickly to promote good progress. The manager has built good relationships with other settings to support children's transition on to school. Parents are highly complimentary about the nursery and are confident in its new leadership.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The experienced and well-qualified staff regularly observe children's learning and provide them with activities that reflect their interests. They provide a wide range of opportunities for children to make marks and draw. For example, children thoroughly enjoy using writing materials and scissors at the writing table, while others explore making marks with paint on plastic. Staff encourage children to explore music, rhythm and sound, and promote children's listening and attention skills well. For example, the youngest children cooperate well as they use actions and sing their favourite nursery rhymes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Babies and children form strong bonds with staff. Children and their parents get to know their key person well. This helps children to grow in confidence and feel secure. Staff plan settling-in and transition routines for children, in consultation with the parents, which help to foster children's emotional well-being. Staff promote healthy lifestyles with children. They have plenty of opportunities to go out in the fresh air and exercise in the outdoor environment or on the regular visits in the local community. Any challenging behaviour is managed very well by calm and patient staff. The manager and staff have a good understanding of risk. For example, staff ensure they deploy themselves effectively across the play areas to supervise children well. Staff give plenty of praise to children during activities, supporting their sense of self-esteem.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those receiving additional funding, make good progress. Children thoroughly enjoy staff interactions and involve them in their fantasy play. Children are creative and imaginative and enjoy using their senses to explore and discover. They develop good relationships with others and play cooperatively together. They are well prepared for their next stage of their education, including the eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY536071
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10060847
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Little Stars (Westlands) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535349
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07894018645

Little Stars Childcare registered in 2016. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. Of these all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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