

Little Acorns Day Nursery

Clifton Childrens Centre, Kingsway North, YORK, YO30 6JA



Inspection date

11 August 2015

Previous inspection date

9 May 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are motivated to learn and make good progress. Staff routinely observe and assess their achievements to help plan for each child's next steps and effectively support their individual learning.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported. Staff work closely with outside agencies and use their guidance to ensure that children move forward in line with their capabilities.
- Children enjoy spending time outdoors to develop their physical skills and continue their learning about healthy lifestyles. The outdoor environment is well laid out with room for children to run and climb, dig in the mud and practise making marks.
- Parents feel exceptionally well supported by the staff who they describe as fantastic, very caring and hugely influential in helping children make rapid progress.
- The manager and staff are committed to reviewing the quality of teaching and use reflective practice effectively to drive forward improvements. Self-evaluation is a team effort and also includes the views of parents and children.
- Children are safeguarded well. This is because all staff understand and implement the policies and procedures designed to keep children safe and protect them from harm.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not promote children's home language sufficiently well.
- The manager does not yet monitor the progress of groups of children to identify any differences in the progress made between groups, such as boys and girls.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities to support children's home language through everyday activities.
- enhance processes for monitoring the progress of groups of children, to check for any differences in attainment between the different groups of children who attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed play and learning activities, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- A range of documents were inspected, including observations, assessments and planning.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff and viewed documents, including the setting's self-evaluation, risk assessments and some policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children have a thoroughly enjoyable time in the nursery. Staff assess children's skills and abilities frequently and carefully to prepare for the next stage in their education. Staff use effective teaching to support children who speak English as an additional language, ensuring the children develop the good language skills they need. However, staff do not always provide children with opportunities for their own home language. Children get engrossed in craft activities as they make their own pictures. They show great skill in their hand control as they use the glue spreaders and paintbrushes. Staff extend the activity by introducing colour and shape. Staff make the most of opportunities to challenge children, which encourages them to think for themselves.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

There is a very well-established system to help children settle into the nursery. Staff have excellent relationships with children, which effectively support children's emotional well-being. Staff promote children's good health and well-being exceptionally well. They help children to manage their personal care independently and hygienically, which helps to reduce the spread of germs. Staff make excellent use of snack and meal times to help children learn about the benefits of eating well, to develop their independence skills and encourage conversation. Children are confident and have a sense of pride in their achievements. Staff have an exemplary approach to managing behaviour. They model good behaviour and develop an ethos of mutual respect. Children behave well and they learn to share and show kindness to others.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager and her team have a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They work well together to ensure the running of the nursery is effective and well organised so children's needs are met. They use regular risk assessments and safety procedures to ensure children remain safe in the nursery. Self-evaluation methods are thorough and include the views of children, parents and staff. The manager identifies areas for development and takes prompt action to improve. They monitor their progress and link with other providers and advisors for further support. The manager observes staff practice and encourages training to support professional development for the well-qualified team. They form effective links with several local schools as part of preparing children well for the move to school and the next stage in their learning. The manager monitors children's development and has an overview of the progress of each individual child. However, systems to monitor any variations in the progress of different groups of children are not yet established to further support and challenge their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY439221
Local authority	York
Inspection number	853980
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	85
Name of provider	Sarah Jane Saville
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2012
Telephone number	01904552345

Little Acorns nursery was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including two with Early Years degrees. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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