

Little Sparrows Day Nursery

Little Sparrows Day Nursery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9EJ



Inspection date	7 January 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

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

- Teaching is good. Staff skilfully incorporate children's interests into the topics planned. They provide stimulating activities that engage children. This helps to encourage children to become inquisitive learners and to be motivated in their play. Children show that they are confident and eager to learn.
- Children settle well and are secure in the care of the nurturing and attentive staff team. Staff place a high priority on building strong bonds with children. They work closely with parents to ensure that they know about children's individual care needs.
- Children demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility. They know where to get a dustpan and brush from so that they can help to sweep up. They are keen to keep their environment safe and free from hazards.
- Children have access to a very well-resourced outdoor area. This is divided into different sections to accommodate a variety of purposeful learning, such as investigation and physical development.
- The manager is committed to continuous improvement and seeks ways in which to enhance the experiences for children. She uses the views of staff and parents to drive improvements forward and to meet the needs of the children and their families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to extend older and more-able children's thinking and communication skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for older and more-able children to develop their thinking skills, giving them more time to formulate their ideas and respond to questions posed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors. She spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked documentation, including children's records, a sample of policies, and staff training and suitability records.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children from harm. Secure recruitment procedures are followed and new staff complete a thorough induction process. There are effective systems in place for staff supervision and performance management. This helps to ensure that practice is monitored so that good standards of care and learning are maintained. Staff work extremely well together. The deputy has completed a higher level qualification. This has had a positive impact on the children's experiences. For example, new ideas are implemented and reviewed. There is a strong partnership with parents. Staff work closely with them to ensure there is a coordinated approach to meeting children's individual needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are making good progress. Staff provide them with a broad range of activities. Younger children love exploring sensory items, such as lentils and cornflour. They have great fun when they play with cornflour and discover the impact of adding water and food colouring to this. Staff members provide a running commentary and sensitively correct children's vocabulary. Babies delight in discovering how to operate interactive toys. Their emerging skills, such as walking and crawling, are effectively supported. Older children play cooperatively with each other. They confidently explain to visitors how they recently made the displayed robot using a variety of cardboard boxes and tubes. In-depth discussions during the construction of rockets help children to learn about different mathematical ideas, such as the recognition of various shapes. Staff frequently observe children's development and identify the next steps in their learning. These are shared with parents and information is exchanged about how they can support learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Older children show kindness and understanding towards younger children. For example, they help younger ones put on aprons for painting. Younger children are encouraged to learn right from wrong and to respect their friends. Staff have daily discussions with parents about children's well-being. They provide information to parents about managing unwanted behaviour so that they can all work together. This helps to provide consistency in children's care. Children learn about safety through topics and appropriate supervision by staff when they are using items, such as scissors. Staff prepare children very well emotionally for their move to school. They arrange visits to schools and meetings with proposed teachers which contribute to children coping with such change.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the key skills needed for the next steps in their learning, including, where appropriate, for starting school. The manager has effective systems in place to monitor the progress of different groups of children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481468
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	996964
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Little Sparrows Day Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01992 623222

Little Sparrows Day Nursery was re-registered in 2014 following a name change. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The deputy holds level 6. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round, apart from bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.45am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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