

# Acorn Day Nursery (Castlethorpe)

17 South Street, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK19 7EL



<b>Inspection date</b>	28 January 2015
Previous inspection date	7 May 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff have a very good knowledge and understanding of how children learn, and provide a varied, stimulating and challenging education programme. Consequently, children are working comfortably within the range of development expected for their age.
- Children are warmly welcomed into a fun, well-resourced environment where they can safely explore, both indoors and outside. This supports children's all round emotional development and well-being.
- Arrangements for safeguarding children are well established and staff consistently implement the policies and procedures. This means staff safeguard children's welfare and well-being well.
- Self-evaluation is rigorous and includes the views of staff, children and parents. This ensures the setting successfully identifies and addresses areas of improvement.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not organise all daily routines effectively, as although older children are able to serve their own food they have to wait for everyone to be served before eating it. This means they often are left sitting for a long periods unoccupied, during which time their food grows cold.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of daily routines to ensure staff consistently engage all children and extend their personal independence skills.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children during a range of activities.
- The inspector had discussions with staff and looked at children's development files.
- The inspector spoke to parents and looked at a range of documents including evidence of staff's suitability to work with children, and a sample of policies and procedures and other records.
- The inspector invited the manager to conduct a joint observation.

### Inspector

Maxine Coulson

## Inspection findings

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

Staff have a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the seven areas of learning. They effectively use observations and assessments to identify children's next steps in learning, and plan suitably challenging activities. This helps children to make good progress, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and means they have the key skills and attributes needed for their move to school. Staff spend plenty of time engaging in purposeful play with the children. For example, they race excitedly around the garden on a windy day, with kites made out of paper. Staff listen well to children and are very responsive to their suggestions and individual needs. Staff plan the environment well to offer children plenty of opportunities to promote physical skills as they have free access to the well-resourced outdoor area. Parents spoken to at the inspection speak very highly of the nursery and are happy with the amount of information shared with them about their children's progress.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good**

Staff are warm and friendly and provide a welcoming environment where children play happily and enthusiastically. Each child has a key person who works closely with parents to develop a good understanding of children's individual needs. As a result, children form secure emotional attachments with their key person, and become confident when meeting new people. Staff praise children for their achievements and positive behaviour and, consequently, children know what is expected of them and behave very well. Staff encourage children to wash their hands, pour their own drinks and serve their own food. However, all older children have to wait until all meals are served before they can eat. This results in them often sitting unoccupied and means their food becomes cold. Staff provide children with regular access to outdoors. They provide resources to promote physical exercise and to help children to manage risks, such as negotiating climbing frames and using tyres for balancing. Consequently, children feel safe as they make independent choices and become confident practising different movements with increasing skill.

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

Management implement rigorous recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Training opportunities, induction procedures and team meetings mean that staff are familiar with any procedures to follow, such as, those regarding the use of cameras and mobile telephones, and on-line safety. Staff regularly monitor children's records of achievement to identify and address any gaps in their learning. A main strength of the nursery is the staff's and manager's passion and dedication to the children. The manager has a strong drive to build on their success and makes very good use of the fully supportive management team. They demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous

improvement to ensure they are highly effective at meeting the needs of children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	141751
<b>Local authority</b>	Milton Keynes
<b>Inspection number</b>	841486
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	36
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	54
<b>Name of provider</b>	Acorn Childcare Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	7 May 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	01908 510309

Acorn Day Nursery is one of ten nurseries run by Acorn Childcare Limited. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It opened in 1989 and is situated in the centre of the village of Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire. It is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.15pm, for 50 weeks of the year, closing only for bank holidays and five additional training days. Children come from the local community and surrounding areas. The nursery also operates an out-of-school club for older children, using additional premises in the neighbouring school. There are 13 members of staff working directly with the children, of whom 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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