

The Learning Tree Nursery

10 Alfreton Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 1FW



Inspection date

4 November 2016

Previous inspection date

7 May 2013

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

- Staff provide children with a wide range of good quality toys and materials. They plan activities around children's interests. This means children enjoy their play and make good progress.
- Staff record observations and assess children's progress regularly. Leaders monitor the progress of all children. Staff ensure that any child who may require additional support receives it.
- Professional development has a direct impact on achieving positive outcomes for children. For example, information gained from a sign language course has been used very well to successfully enhance the communication skills of children who have special educational needs.
- Parents speak positively about the nursery and how well staff meet the needs and interests of their children. They feel they are kept well informed by staff about their children's progress. Parents are given ideas about how to support learning at home.
- Children have strong bonds with staff. Children feel secure and settle very quickly at this warm and welcoming nursery. Staff respect children as individuals and promote their well-being effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff working with younger children do not fully support them to use the correct pronunciation of words.
- Staff do not give children enough opportunities to build as far as possible on their problem-solving skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance teaching skills that help children to use the correct pronunciation of words and further support their good speaking skills
- provide children with more opportunities to investigate and solve problems.

Inspection activities

- 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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and deputy. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lianne McElvaney

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good knowledge of how to identify and report concerns regarding the welfare of a child. Policies are well written and are used well to help ensure that children are kept safe from harm. Good procedures are in place to check that all staff recruited are suitable to work with children. Staff have good links with other professionals. They are proactive in developing links with local schools, to support older children as they prepare to start school. The long-standing staff team is well qualified and undertakes appropriate professional development. Supervision processes make a positive contribution to the continual development of staff skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly carry out observations of children's development and use this information to plan for children's next steps in learning. Managers monitor the progress of groups of children. They make effective use of additional funding to close the gaps in children's learning. Children access a broad range of activities and resources. They follow their own interests and staff are nearby to offer help and support if needed. Staff help children learn about size and number. For example, children count pieces of pasta in foil trays. Children enjoy sensory activities and they investigate natural items in the role play area. Children smell vegetables, such as leeks and are encouraged to describe the feeling of ice in the water tray. Children thoroughly enjoy playing in the outdoor area. Their physical development is promoted as they balance, climb and use wheeled toys. They use role play to learn about the world and to play cooperatively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff get to know children well and are attentive to their individual needs. They support children's emotional well-being effectively, helping them to settle and build close bonds with staff. Staff are positive role models for children. Children behave well and develop good social skills. Babies show affection to their peers and play well alongside others. Good hygiene practices are well embedded within the nursery and staff explain these well. Children drink lots of water and undertake regular physical activity sessions. Staff provide appropriate support to help them understand why this is important. Staff make good use of snack times as an opportunity to develop children's manners and social skills. Staff use risk assessment and daily checks to identify and minimise potential hazards.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress in their learning and development. They are keen learners and follow instructions well. Children recall rhymes and songs using props and join in enthusiastically. Children are self-assured and show increasing independence as they put on their own coats and shoes. Children develop the key skills needed in readiness for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253038
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	1063824
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	94
Name of registered person	Childcare (UK) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527807
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2013
Telephone number	01623 512324

The Learning Tree Nursery was registered in 1997. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, two at level 4, seven at level 3 and two at level 2. 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. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children who have special educational needs.

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