

Little Gardners Nursery

Main Road, Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4ZH



Inspection date	10 April 2018
Previous inspection date	8 May 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- The directors have successfully worked together with the local authority to fully address the actions from the last inspection. They have raised standards at the nursery to a consistently good level.
- The key-person system is very strong. Children form strong bonds with staff. This is particularly evident in the younger age groups where staff go out of their way to build high-quality attachments with babies.
- Teaching is consistently good across the team. Effective monitoring of staff and children's progress by the qualified teacher and the directors has brought forth positive results.
- Children show high motivation during their play activities and are excited and busy learners. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive tailored support from well-trained and experienced staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although partnership with parents is strong, the directors recognise they can expand on home learning activities to raise children's learning outcomes to a higher level.
- Planning in the pre-school room is not consistently of the highest quality. Staff do not consider children's emerging interests continuously, to enable them to expertly build on what children know and can do.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen further the partnership with parents in supporting home learning activities to raise children's learning outcomes to a higher level
- enhance further the planning of the play programme in the pre-school room to enrich children's learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to children, observed the children's play activities indoors and outdoors, looked at the available resources and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers to discuss their leadership and management, including self-evaluation methods.
- The inspector spoke to a sample of parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with one of the directors.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The directors and staff are well trained and have a thorough, up-to-date understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns. They maintain a safe and very secure environment. The directors have reflected well on their previous weaknesses and become more involved with coaching staff. They have higher expectations of staff, who receive regular team and one-to-one meetings where they share new ideas, guidance and training. After recent training, staff have developed their understanding of babies' brain development and the importance of children forming quality attachments. The directors accurately evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery. The teacher monitors the progress of all children, including different groups such as children learning English as an additional language. She works with staff to close any gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff share good information with parents about children's progress and regularly discuss children's development and priorities for learning. Overall, they plan challenging activities that motivate children in their purposeful play. For example, pre-school children enjoy an active, enjoyable game outside, listening to friends carefully, following instructions, counting and problem-solving numbers using their fingers. Children under two years are curious learners. They eagerly look for centipedes and other mini-beasts in their bucket, alongside staff who skilfully weave different areas of learning together. For example, they model key vocabulary, simple sentence structure, counting and how to keep safe. Staff provide a language-rich environment for under-tuos. Some staff expertly use sign language and tune into babies' eye gaze, naming what they see supported by the sign.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy, sociable and very settled. Older children enjoy taking responsibility for themselves, such as laying the dinner table. Children are extremely well behaved because staff are very good role models and offer good strategies, which promote positive morals. For example, children place their picture on the 'kindness tree' and aim to progress to the star at the top. Staff support children's good health well and place a strong emphasis on developing a healthy lifestyle. For example, children enjoy plenty of outdoor play in all weathers, and nutritious, home-cooked meals and snacks. Children relish an extremely well-managed lunchtime in a relaxed, family atmosphere. Staff meet babies' personal care needs well. They give children plenty of attention and cuddles when they need reassurance, and closely follow their sleep and nappy changing routines.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated and able. They demonstrate strong independence and positive attitudes towards learning. Children acquire very good social skills, and skills in language and mathematics, such as when they freely engage in conversation with the inspector at lunchtime. They observe the tadpoles closely and articulately talk about the life cycle of the frog. Children are well prepared for the next stage of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY473827
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1099368
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	85
Name of registered person	Little Gardners Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP901815
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2017
Telephone number	02380 868 700

Little Gardners Nursery registered in 2014. It is run by a family owned limited company. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm, except during bank holidays, one week in August and one week in December. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 19 staff who work with children. The Director and Manager both hold relevant qualifications at level 5 and they employ a qualified teacher. All other members of staff hold relevant qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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