

Little Squirrels Community Nursery



Ryde Business Park, Nicholson Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1BQ

Inspection date	13 May 2015
Previous inspection date	15 January 2010

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		Good	2
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 form very warm relationships with the staff. The key person systems works extremely well. Staff demonstrate a very clear understanding of each child's different development needs and plan for these accordingly.
- Staff are highly motivated and committed to providing good quality care. They are energetic and enthusiastic in their role and use imaginative teaching methods to support children's learning.
- Children behave very well as they are fully occupied and challenged in their learning.
- The quality of teaching is consistently good and some is outstanding. Staff are skilled in using play experiences to enrich children's learning, especially in developing their mathematical understanding.
- Parents are very happy with the quality of care provided. One parent summarised the view of many by saying, 'I would not put my children anywhere else.'
- The leadership team is highly effective in driving improvement and supporting good quality teaching. Senior staff have an accurate view of the nursery's strengths and identify relevant areas to improve.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities to extend children's learning are not always planned for during snack time in the room for children aged two and three years.
- Although senior staff continually review practice, other staff are not routinely involved in this process.

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 snack time for children aged two to three years by 1) providing relevant resources to enable children to practise physical skills, such as pouring drinks and using cutlery 2) encouraging children to begin to recognise their name, and 3) helping children to become more independent by supporting children to pour their own drinks and serve themselves
- develop the opportunities for staff to review their own practice and identify how they can make continual improvements within the nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and provision for children's learning, both inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager to evaluate the promotion of children's learning.
- The inspector talked to parents who were available on the day of inspection to seek their views.
- The inspector interacted with children during the inspection and talked to them about what they enjoy doing at nursery.
- The inspector visited all nursery rooms and assessed the quality of care and promotion of children's learning across all age groups.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including confirmation that staff had been suitably checked to work with children, first aid certificates, records of staff supervision, safeguarding procedures and staff development files.

Inspector

Jo Caswell HMI

Inspection findings

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

Children make good progress in their learning. Staff are highly skilled in supporting children's development through fun, well-planned play opportunities and the creative use of space available both inside and outside. For example, staff have responded to children's imagination by turning a bush in the garden into a 'bears' lair'. This has captured children's interests and helps them to recreate favourite stories through play. Younger children in the room for two- and three-year olds enjoy playing outside in the garden and take pleasure in watering the potatoes and tomatoes they have recently planted and excitedly wait for them to grow. Staff help to extend children's language and communication skills well. They repeat what children say and introduce new words to extend children's vocabulary. However, the snack time routine does not enable children to develop skills in pouring their drinks or using cutlery to pick up food. Staff do not utilise all opportunities to help children start to recognise their name. Babies make very good progress within the nursery. They benefit from high levels of individual care and attention and enjoy an extensive range of stimulating activities both inside and outside.

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

Staff are fully aware of children's individual needs, likes and dislikes and preferred styles of learning. This means children form very strong relationships with the staff who care for them on a daily basis. New babies and children settle into the nursery routine quickly as staff take time to get to know them. As a result, all children feel secure and approach staff confidently for comfort and support. When children move rooms within the nursery this is managed well, allowing children time to get to know new staff and become familiar with new routines. Nursery staff work closely with local schools to help older children become ready for starting school. As a result, children leave the nursery with good levels of self-confidence, well-developed social skills and positive attitudes towards learning.

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

Leaders and managers work together well to make constant changes within the nursery to improve the quality of provision. However, other staff are not included in this process. This means staff do not have opportunities to review their practice by watching each other and asking for feedback from colleagues to identify what they are good at, and what might need improving. The leadership team offers good opportunities for staff to develop their skills through training. The high calibre of staff results in the good quality practice. Regular supervision meetings ensure any concerns about a child's development are addressed. Parents appreciate the high levels of care provided for their children and the information they receive about their children's progress. Good systems are in place to keep children safe and staff clearly understand their role in protecting children. Partnerships with other agencies, such as health visitors, speech and language therapists and local schools are well-established.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY235868
Local authority	Isle of Wight
Inspection number	1013585
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	122
Name of provider	KNL Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	15 January 2010
Telephone number	01983 615 648

Little Squirrels Community Nursery opened in 2003. It is a privately owned nursery which is run as a limited company under the name of KNL Childcare Limited. The nursery operates from its own purpose-built premises situated in the Oakfield area of Ryde on the Isle of Wight. There are large fully enclosed outdoor play areas for each age group. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register to provide care for children from birth to under five years. Currently, there are 122 children on roll. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. Care can also be provided for children aged over five years during school holidays. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year, closing for two weeks at Christmas and all Bank Holidays. A team of 15 staff work with the children. The deputy manager holds an early years foundation degree and most staff hold a relevant early years qualification to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 and 4.

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