

Little Squirrels Community Nursery

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



Inspection date	22 July 2019
Previous inspection date	13 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The dedicated owner, supported by her team of experienced managers, provides clear and purposeful leadership. They accurately identify priorities for improvement, and are responsive to the views of staff, children and parents. Improvements are well placed to meet the needs of families and ensure an inclusive place for children to learn.
- The provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is excellent. Children benefit from specialised teaching, including through one-to-one support, and make strong progress given their individual starting points.
- Staff promote effective partnerships with parents and carers that provide consistency in children's learning. They regularly exchange information with parents about their children's ongoing achievements and support parents to extend this further at home. Parents and carers speak highly of the dedicated staff team and its commitment to improving outcomes for children.
- Staff create a well-resourced and exciting outdoor area that children enjoy exploring. However, the staff are not confident in promoting children's curiosity and problem-solving skills in this area, particularly with older boys, who show a preference to learn outside.
- Snack times and topic work provide children with ideas on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. However, partnership working with parents and carers does not promote a consistent approach to supporting children to make healthy choices about food.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- promote partnership working with parents and carers further to enhance opportunities for children to develop their understanding of healthy eating
- build further on children's interest in exploring to offer even greater opportunities for problem-solving and discovery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and evaluated the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with parents and carers, children, staff and visiting professionals at appropriate times during the inspection to gather their views about the nursery,
- The inspector and a member of the leadership team observed an activity together and discussed the quality of staff interactions.
- The inspector held a meeting with the owner and other leaders and viewed a sample of documentation, including safeguarding policies and staff suitability checks.

Inspector
Melissa Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. A strong commitment to promoting the welfare of children's families underpins the team's approach to safeguarding. Staff show a secure understanding of the signs that would alert them to a child being at risk of harm. Effective partnership working ensures timely interventions when families need additional support. Procedures to ensure staff suitability are robust. Staff benefit from regular supervision opportunities that include quality feedback from managers to build further on their developing teaching skills. Managers closely monitor and track the progress of individual and specific groups of children and swiftly address differences in learning. Additional funding, including for children with SEND, is used very effectively to improve outcomes and to support children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and experienced. They accurately assess children's individual starting points and build on these well, through activities that focus very effectively on the interests of the children. Staff are highly skilled in supporting children's language skills, including where children's progress less than typical. By the time children move to the pre-school room, they are confident communicators, who listen well and actively share their thoughts and ideas. Staff provide activities to promote children's sensory exploration. Young children enthusiastically engage in an activity with farm animals. They concentrate for extended periods of time as they explore the foods animals eat and copy each in other as they make animal sounds. Older children confidently explore technology and are skilled at completing simple computer programs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children quickly settle into nursery life and develop a strong sense of belief in themselves, due to the exemplary support of their key persons. Each child has a 'voice' and this is recognised and acted on by staff who are strong advocates for their key children. Staff exemplary attention to the mental health of children very effectively builds children's resilience and sense of security. Children's additional health needs are met exceptionally well, by a staff team that accesses specific training and works closely with professionals to support children's welfare to a high level. Staff promote consistent, highly effective strategies to teach children about boundaries for behaviour. Children play together harmoniously and their behaviour is exemplary. Leaders successfully place a strong focus on working with parents to promote children's safety online.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic and eager learners who develop excellent social skills. They listen and pay attention to adults and follow instructions well. Babies delight in singing time and squeal enthusiastically as they jump up and down pretending to be bunnies. Younger children concentrate well at tasks, such as sculpting play dough into shapes and sharing resources readily with their friends. Older children write their names with confidence and link sounds to letters very effectively. All children are well prepared for their next stage in learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY235868
Local authority	Isle of Wight
Inspection number	10070425
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	179
Name of registered person	KNL Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902201
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2015
Telephone number	01983 615 648

Little Squirrels Community Nursery registered in 2003. The nursery is situated in the Oakfield area of Ryde on the Isle of Wight. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year, closing for two weeks at Christmas and bank holidays. A team of 32 permanent and regular supply staff work with the children. Two staff hold qualifications to level 6 and 24 hold qualifications to level 3 or above. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years and supports children through the use of additional funding such as early years pupil premium.

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