

Little Gems Montessori Preschool



The Clachan, Betts Way, Rectory Lane, Long Ditton, Surrey, KT6 5HT

Inspection date	12 July 2017
Previous inspection date	6 May 2015

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

- The qualified and experienced staff have a secure knowledge of child development, and high-quality teaching is embedded in their practice. All staff know how children learn best. They make the most of every opportunity to promote children's learning, such as through using purposeful play and carefully planned activities. All children make consistently good progress from their starting points.
- Staff use thorough observations of children's learning well and these help staff to skilfully identify the need for early intervention. They work closely with other professionals and provide effective support for children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Partnerships with parents are very well established. Parents' involvement in their children's learning helps to ensure that children's needs are quickly identified and successfully met. The staff team works with local schools and other professionals to support all children as they progress to school.
- The manager is committed to developing the skills and knowledge of all staff. She targets training to assist in meeting staff's individual professional development needs and to help raise the quality of practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Self-evaluation systems for identifying targets for future improvement of the pre-school are not sharply focused.
- Staff do not consistently provide enough opportunities for children to have time to think through their ideas before responding to questions asked.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the good systems for self-evaluation to assist in more precisely identifying areas for improvement
- support staff to provide more opportunities for children to have time to think through their ideas before responding to questions asked.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Fabiana Drew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager successfully promotes a culture of vigilance and children's welfare is prioritised. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and are confident about the local procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Daily risk assessments are completed for the environment, indoors and outdoors. This helps to ensure that children are kept safe from harm. The deployment of staff is well organised and children are consistently supervised. The manager implements thorough recruitment procedures that help to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. There are good opportunities for staff to develop their skills and improve outcomes for children. Additional funding is used effectively to support individual children's developmental needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Regular planning takes place and observations and assessments of children's play are used well to identify what children need to learn next. Staff skilfully adapt group sessions to consider the learning needs of all ages. Children form recognisable letters as they copy letters and colour in pictures. They particularly enjoy making marks on a large scale outdoors, using water and brushes. This helps to support their early writing skills. Children enjoy using the computer to learn about different shapes and listening to the sounds that the equipment makes as they match the pictures. This helps to support their technology skills. Staff have a strong focus on preparing children for school. They help children to develop good literacy skills. For example, staff encourage children to find the names of their peers on the register while they pretend to be teachers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Individual settling-in procedures help children to feel safe and secure when they first start. This supports their emotional well-being successfully. Children behave very well. They are respectful and calm as they play. They take turns, learn to share and develop good friendships. Children are secure in their surroundings and have confidence in their own abilities. Children learn about the importance of road safety. They pretend to drive around the tracks and stop/start when staff show different colours. They also create their own traffic light to consolidate their learning. Children enjoy extended periods in the well-resourced outdoor area.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy and thoroughly enjoy their time at pre-school. They are motivated to learn and are keen to make choices about their play. They successfully develop the skills required for their next stage in learning. For example, they learn to listen carefully, solve problems and develop good physical skills, including self-care skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY401605
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	1094108
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Gemma Louise Mustoe
Registered person unique reference number	RP908729
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2015
Telephone number	02083988805

Little Gems Montessori Preschool registered in 2010. The pre-school offers care Monday to Friday, from 9am until 3pm, during term time only. There are eight members of staff. Of these, one holds an early years teacher qualification, one holds a qualification at level 7, two hold degrees in early years education, one member of staff holds a qualification at level 4, and two members of staff hold qualifications at level 3. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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