

Little Squirrels - Community Nursery

Froebel House, 100 Granby Street, Plymouth, PL1 4BN



Inspection date	8 June 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 manager and staff team work together effectively and routinely share information to help them get to know all children well and meet their individual care needs. Children form strong attachments with staff, settle quickly, and are happy and content.
- Children are enthusiastic and motivated learners. They eagerly join in with the enjoyable activities that staff plan and make good progress across all areas.
- The manager makes good use of funding and ensures staff work effectively to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who have developmental delays. They form good partnerships with parents and outside agencies to meet children's needs and create tailored plans that successfully help children make good developmental progress.
- Leaders are committed to making ongoing improvements to raise outcomes for children further. For example, they have plans to develop how they monitor the progress of groups of children and to involve all parents more in children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support young children's early language and communication skills in the baby room.
- At times, staff do not adapt their teaching to provide greater challenge for the most able children, to help them make even more progress in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more support for babies to develop their early language and communication skills further
- support staff to have even higher expectations of the most able children, to consistently provide good challenge that extends their learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed children's interaction and participation in a range of activities and routine tasks, inside and outside.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations with the manager to evaluate the quality of teaching and learning during adult-led activities.
- The inspectors spoke with staff, parents and children to take account of their views.
- The inspectors held discussions with the manager and provider about how they meet the requirements.
- The inspectors sampled a range of documentation, including children's learning records, staff qualification and training certificates, and risk assessments of the premises.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and procedures, including the restriction of mobile phones around children and how to refer any concerns to the relevant authorities. They carry out regular risk assessments of the premises and ensure they provide a safe, hygienic and secure environment. The manager organises the staff well to ensure they meet the children's needs. Recruitment and induction procedures are rigorous to check that staff are suitable to carry out their roles and knowledgeable of their responsibilities. Staff have good morale. The manager supports them well to reflect on their practice and identify any training needs. This has led staff to review the environment for babies, to create a more engaging area that captures their attention and encourages their exploration.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess children's learning accurately. They plan stimulating activities that engage children and, overall, build on what they know and can do. For example, they provide 'tummy time' for babies and encourage them to kick their legs to develop strength and control of their movements. Older children competently write and recognise letters, and link these with sounds, showing strong literacy skills. Staff interact well with children, listen to them and follow their interests. For example, children expressed an interest in computers and staff encouraged them to revisit a recent role-play activity. Children chose the resources they wanted and imaginatively pretended to work at an office, using toy laptops and 'writing letters' to post. They thoroughly enjoyed this spontaneous play and concentrated well for a sustained time. Staff inform parents of children's achievements and routinely provide support to help them extend children's learning further at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a calm and positive learning environment from the moment children arrive, and they are kind and gentle. Children behave well and develop good social skills from a young age. For example, babies pass toys to each other and older children willingly help to tidy up. Staff build children's self-esteem well, such as regularly praising their efforts, and children confidently take responsibility for their own needs. For instance, babies try to use cutlery at mealtimes and older children dress themselves.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills to support their future learning and the move to school. For example, older children in particular learn to express their ideas effectively. Children enjoy looking at books alone and with staff, and they confidently try to solve problems by themselves. For example, children work together to build a balance beam using large blocks and investigate how many children can use a single seesaw at the same time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY498093
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1099021
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	30
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	KCP Keystone CIC
Registered person unique reference number	RP901727
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01752 551502

Little Squirrels - Community Nursery is part of the Keystone nursery group and registered in 2016. It operates in the Devonport area of Plymouth and is open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The nursery employs seven members of staff to work with the children, including the manager, who has early years professional status. The staff team includes two apprentices who are working towards relevant qualifications, one member of staff who holds a level 2 qualification, and three staff who hold qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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