

Little Learning Ladder

Unit 1, Chips, 2 Lampwick Lane, New Islington, Manchester, M4 6BU



Inspection date	20 September 2017
Previous inspection date	29 August 2014

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

- Staff have a strong focus on safeguarding. They have a broad understanding and are able to implement effective procedures to help ensure children are well protected. Children throughout the nursery are very well supervised.
- Every child is warmly welcomed into the diverse and inclusive nursery community.
- Children are motivated by a stimulating, well-resourced indoor and outdoor learning environment that effectively promotes independent learning.
- Staff work effectively as a team to meet the individual and group needs of the children. Children settle quickly and benefit from secure attachments that promote their emotional well-being and provide a secure foundation for their learning.
- Children are enthusiastic learners who confidently pursue their own interests.
- The recently appointed manager is well supported by the company directors. Her enthusiasm and drive have helped maintain good provision for children.
- Parents, staff and children are actively encouraged to share their views and opinions, which help to inform priorities and secure ongoing improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always discuss with parents when will be the most useful time to complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years.
- At times, staff do not give children sufficient time to think and solve problems for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and improve the way the two year progress check is carried out to strengthen partnership working even further
- provide children with time to think things through and solve problems independently.

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 completed two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the nominated person.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of adults working in the setting, looked at relevant documentation, and discussed the setting's self-evaluation and plans for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Vickie Halliwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures show that staff have been thoroughly checked by the provider. All staff are alert to child protection issues and are able to implement local procedures to protect children from possible harm. The manager uses her very good knowledge, skills and expertise to guide, coach and support staff. She continuously monitors and reviews staff practice and carries out regular supervision to help manage their performance. A comprehensive online programme of professional development has recently been established. This monthly training has helped improve staff's knowledge of the wider aspects of safeguarding, health and safety and behaviour management. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed. The premises are very well maintained, safe and suitable.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use information gained from observation and assessment to accurately assess children's level of development and identify the next steps in their learning. Children's individual learning is well supported by staff, who plan suitably challenging activities that children enjoy. Staff enhance the excellent continuous provision effectively to further support children's independent learning. For example, children routinely use writing resources in all areas of their play. Teaching focuses particularly well on supporting children's personal development and their communication and language. Stories are used well to develop children's listening and attention. Staff use interesting props to engage children fully. Skilful questioning is used to confirm children's understanding and to extend their communication skills. The manager monitors effectively the progress of all children who attend. Children who are at risk of falling behind are swiftly identified so that they can receive further support. Parents say they feel well informed about their child's learning and are very happy with the progress they make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children display a strong sense of belonging. They are very well supported by staff, who help them achieve personal independence, and learn the importance of socially acceptable behaviour. Consistent routines, visual prompts and positive role models help children understand what is expected of them. Children's physical health and well-being are promoted effectively. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals and snacks. They learn good table manners as they dine alongside their friends. Children's physical development is well promoted. Staff make excellent use of the well-designed outdoor hut, which provides good opportunities for children to play in the fresh air in all weathers.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and are developing the key skills they need for school. They become confident learners who enjoy gaining new skills within a safe, supportive environment. Children are becoming increasingly aware of the world around them. They play with imagination and use small tools with increasing skill. Children communicate effectively and achieve personal independence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460492
Local authority	Manchester
Inspection number	1113452
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 - 8
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Little Learning Ladder Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP532436
Date of previous inspection	29 August 2014
Telephone number	01612056096

Little Learning Ladder registered in 2013. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold qualifications at level 6, one holds level 5 and 18 hold qualifications from level 2 to level 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays. Opening times are from 7.30am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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