

Ladybird Forest Pre-School Ampthill

Queens Road, Ampthill, BEDFORD MK45 2TD



Inspection date	28 March 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The strong skills of all key persons help children to form very warm and caring bonds with them. Staff create a very happy and fun environment where children demonstrate that they feel exceptionally secure and confident in their care from an early stage. Parents comment how staff are 'incredibly nurturing'.
- The whole staff team have recently achieved national and local authority awards. These have a positive impact in helping staff to be expert first-aiders and supporting children to make rapid progress.
- The very well-qualified staff team are inspirational. They have a real thirst to continue to extend their knowledge. Each member of staff embraces their chosen specialist area of teaching or responsibility. Robust supervision meetings and excellent training opportunities are thoroughly effective and embedded. Staff share their expertise with other providers to help improve outcomes for children.
- Excellent partnerships with parents are in place. Staff involve them in every aspect of their children's learning. They provide parents with superb opportunities to attend an extensive range of information sessions and ideas to help support their children's progress at home.
- Daily forest-school sessions support children to develop an excellent understanding of the natural world and how to keep safe. For example, they cook popcorn on the campfire and learn about life cycles as they observe frog spawn turning in to tadpoles.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the already excellent outdoor areas to provide even further exemplary learning experiences.

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

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a very secure knowledge of the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager and staff are relentless in their pursuit of excellence. They use a wealth of detailed audits and incisive self-evaluation as a powerful tool for improvement. The highly stimulating outdoor areas provide excellent learning opportunities for children. Additionally, the staff have innovative plans to inspire children's imaginative play outdoors even further. The manager's sharp focus on monitoring children's progress identifies and addresses gaps as soon as they emerge. Excellent partnerships with other professionals are in place to successfully support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Partnerships with other providers that children attend are exceptionally effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their detailed observations and precise assessments to meticulously plan exciting and highly stimulating experiences. All children are highly motivated to learn. Staff are extremely attuned to children's individual needs and consistently adapt their excellent teaching skills. Children are expert problem solvers. For instance, they work together to create a ramp using planks of wood. Children experiment how to adjust the angle of the planks to make a wooden cylinder roll down the ramp at different speeds. Focused group activities provide children with excellent opportunities to further enhance their concentration and listening skills. For instance, children show that they are fascinated to hear about how a cow is milked. Staff's superb use of questioning helps children to develop excellent language and deep critical thinking skills. This motivates children to use complex sentences to recall previous experiences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are outstanding role models and children behave exceptionally well. They consistently demonstrate friendly and respectful relationships with each other and staff. For example, children help each other climb down from the birdwatching station. Children follow a superb hygiene routine and are responsible individuals. Staff provide children with excellent opportunities to learn about people in the wider community, particularly those who are less familiar. Children positively respond to staff's excellent emotional support during changes in their lives.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make rapid progress from their individual starting points. They are extremely independent from a young age. Children solve complex mathematical problems. They link letters to sounds and confidently write their name and other words. These key skills prepare children exceptionally well for their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY541389
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10090226
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 7
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	Ladybird Forest Pre-School Ampthill
Registered person unique reference number	RP541388
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01525406703

Ladybirds Forest Pre-School Ampthill re-registered in 2017. It employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager and another member of staff who hold qualifications at level 6. The setting operates from 7.45am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. It also operates a holiday club during some school holidays from 9am until 4pm. The setting provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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