

Inspection of Little Foxes (Wigan) Ltd

Iona House, Billinge Road, Wigan, Lancashire WN3 6BL

Inspection date: 19 November 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children feel safe and welcome at the nursery. They settle well because staff give much care and attention to their individual needs. Children become calm, happy and able to manage their emotions because of staff's skilful, gentle help. They develop a sense of pride and belonging to their special group with their key person. Children feel a sense of achievement, such as when staff notice that they have put the toys away carefully or been kind to someone else. Children become responsible, thoughtful and keen learners.

Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make a positive start to their learning. This begins well in the baby room and continues throughout their time at the nursery. Children learn well because of the high aspirations that the provider has for their early education. Children keenly explore the nursery's many interesting toys and resources. They benefit from the well-thought-out activities that staff provide to develop their knowledge of important concepts and ideas.

Children gain essential knowledge on which their later learning can build. For example, staff teach them to be physically strong and active. Children learn how to make and keep friends. They develop the communication skills that they need to share their ideas with other people.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The provider has taken prompt and effective action to address the previous weaknesses. For example, it has tightened risk assessments, reviewed and updated the nursery's safeguarding policy and complaints procedures. The provider ensures that highly qualified staff are deployed to meet the needs of babies. These updates have been shared with staff to inform and improve their practice to ensure the safety and well-being of children.
- The provider has established an ambitious curriculum for children, including those with SEND. It uses additional funding well to help children to make progress through its curriculum. For example, it has purchased outdoor equipment that staff use to support the physical development of children with SEND. Children become physically mobile and develop the core strength and agility that they need.
- Staff support children's understanding of mathematics well. For instance, they skilfully teach younger children number names during their play. Older children learn about counting numbers in order and what numbers look like when they are written down. Children become confident early mathematicians.
- Most of the time, staff support children effectively to act sensibly as part of a larger group. This includes moving from indoors to outdoors, room to room and

taking part in mealtimes and snack times. Occasionally, some of these routines for preschool children become disorganised. As a result, sometimes children lose focus and disengage in their learning.

- Staff read different stories and non-fiction books to children. Children enjoy thumbing through books alone or with others. However, the provider has not thought carefully enough about its curriculum for early literacy. As a result, staff mostly choose books to read with children at random. This does not help to deepen children's knowledge of books.
- The provider ensures that staff support children with SEND well. Staff use assessment strategies effectively to identify the gaps in children's learning. They use this information carefully to plan for children's next steps. The provider makes sure that staff work well with external experts to provide children with additional help. Children with SEND build their knowledge successfully.
- Staff support babies' emotional development well. They sing familiar nursery songs often and gently sway babies in their arms to the rhythm of the rhymes. Babies smile as they snuggle in with their key persons as they enjoy this special bonding time. As a result, babies build secure relationships with their key person and other staff members.
- Partnership with parents and carers is a strength of the nursery. The provider places high value on listening to the views of parents and supporting their needs. It provides stay-and-play sessions for parents alongside the well-considered settling-in sessions for children. This sets the scene for children to thrive when they start at the nursery.
- Staff benefit from the many training opportunities and thorough induction that they receive. For example, the provider recently arranged for staff to complete important training about the role of the key person. Staff receive regular coaching and mentoring to improve their work with children. As a result, children make good progress in their learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the curriculum to identify the literacy knowledge that staff should teach to children
- improve the organisation of the routines in the preschool room so that children are consistently engaged and benefit from the intended learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297752
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	10373977
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 at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	116
Number of children on roll	110
Name of registered person	Little Foxes (Wigan) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP525180
Telephone number	01942 227972
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2022

Information about this early years setting

Little Foxes (Wigan) Ltd registered in 2004. It is situated in the Highfield area of Wigan. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 7. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The setting offers government-funded places for children aged nine months to four years. The setting also receives funding for disadvantaged children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Andrea Vaughan

Inspection activities

- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- Staff spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The area manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation during a group activity.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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