

Inspection of Lilys Little Gems

Jobcentre Plus, 99 King Street, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire BL4 7AX

Inspection date: 22 July 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are safe and happy in this homely nursery. They settle easily with the friendly staff who take time to help them feel comfortable. Children confidently say goodbye to their parents in the entrance hall, a measure introduced to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. Staff chat to children about their evening and tell them about the exciting activities for that day. Children quickly engage and enjoy talking to staff about what they are doing. For example, they investigate plastic animals in blocks of ice. They tell staff they are going to rescue them by melting it.

Children have strong bonds with staff, they seek them out to dance and share games. Babies crawl and toddle to show staff what they have found. They smile as staff sing to them. Children understand what they need to do at key times throughout the day. They have learned how to line up to go outside, how to wash their hands and what to do at snack time. Staff are excellent role models, with high expectations for every child. They remind children to use good manners and consider each other. Older children have learned to play board games together independently. They take turns and help each other succeed.

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

- The environment supports learning across the early years curriculum. Children move around freely, choosing from activities aimed at helping them learn what they need to know next. For example, toddlers count scoops of sand as they use toy diggers. This helps children progress their mathematical skills. However, there is less focus on developing large muscles in this age group. Toddlers do not have the same opportunities as babies and older children to climb and balance regularly.
- Communication and language is a strength. Staff have benefitted from recent training in this area, learning to ask a range of age-appropriate questions. They model speech well, helping children to speak clearly. Staff give children time to think and answer questions. As a result, children are keen to share what they know and can do. By the time they leave for school, most children are excellent communicators.
- Story time in larger group sessions does not always keep older children engaged. Some children are very keen to talk about what is happening on each page. Staff respond and help them deepen their understanding. For example, they describe anchors and look up images with an electronic device. This adds to the experience but frequently stops the flow. As a result, other children lose focus and do not benefit from hearing the story.
- Children manage mealtimes well. Babies learn to feed themselves with a spoon. Toddlers drink from an open cup and start to use cutlery. Older children build on their skills as they pour drinks and serve their own food. Pre-school children

learn to spread and cut with knives. When they find this difficult, staff model what to do and encourage them to keep trying. As a result, children develop confidence in their abilities.

- Staff teach children about staying healthy. They set up role play areas, such as a dental practice, to support children's understanding of how to look after their teeth. Furthermore, staff regularly ask children why they need to wash their hands. Children talk about germs and the potential consequences. This helps children to keep themselves safe and well.
- The manager is very supportive of staff. She acts as a mentor, modelling good practice. She ensures that staff have access to meaningful professional development and encourages them to reflect on their learning. The manager supports career progression, giving staff time and encouragement to study higher level childcare courses. Some staff become room leaders and mentor apprentices. As a result, staff are passionate about their work. They enthuse each other as they share ideas.
- Staff get to know children and families very well. They work with parents to document children's likes, dislikes and starting points. They regularly assess how children are progressing and share their achievements with an online journal. Parents feel involved in children's learning and say their children have blossomed.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse, including indications that children might be being exposed to radicalised views. There are effective recording procedures in place. Staff know how to report concerns and make timely referrals to access support for families. They take ownership for displaying safeguarding prompts and useful telephone numbers in key areas of each room. The manager ensures that mandatory training is up to date. She encourages a culture of safeguarding, quizzing staff to check their knowledge. The staff are mindful of children's allergies when preparing and serving food.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- consider the best way to organise group times to maximise children's engagement in learning
- organise indoor space in a way that allows all children to develop and strengthen their large muscles regularly, particularly toddlers

Setting details

Unique reference number	2526843
Local authority	Bolton
Inspection number	10215065
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	120
Number of children on roll	103
Name of registered person	Lilys Little Gems Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2526842
Telephone number	07955455045
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Lily's Little Gems registered in 2019. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Most staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Susie Millward Sampson

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Relevant documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including documents relating to safeguarding, paediatric first aid and the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke with a new member of staff about induction and recruitment.
- The views of parents were considered by the inspector, in person and in writing.
- The manager explained the curriculum to the inspector during a tour of the nursery.

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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