

Inspection of Little Owls Nursery Two Willows

Cardinal Square, Beeston, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS11 8HS

Inspection date: 12 September 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive at the nursery happy, confident and eager to learn. They separate from their parents and carers with ease and quickly settle into play. Warm and trusting relationships are formed with staff, who know children well and respond sensitively to their needs. Children seek reassurance when required, and staff provide this with care and warmth. Children feel safe, secure and settled, which supports their overall well-being and development.

Children are enthusiastic learners who choose from a range of activities and resources. They benefit from daily outdoor play in spacious and well-resourced outdoor areas. Staff plan opportunities that encourage children to be active and to develop their physical skills. For instance, children ride bikes, dig in the mud, climb with confidence and enjoy running games with their friends. These experiences promote strength, coordination and independence, while also encouraging cooperation and turn taking.

Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive strong support. Staff attend relevant training and work closely with parents and professionals to ensure that children's needs are well met. A well-resourced sensory room provides calm spaces for targeted one-to-one and small-group sessions, enabling children with SEND to make the best possible progress.

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

- Leaders have worked with staff to develop and plan a broad and balanced curriculum for children. Staff know children well and use ongoing assessments to identify their next steps in learning. Overall, staff's interactions with children are good. However, during free-flow play, staff are spread across large areas indoors and outdoors. Consequently, although staff deployment is effective in keeping children safe, it reduces opportunities for consistent, high-quality interactions.
- The leadership team supports families to access available funding. It uses its knowledge of the children and their families to determine how to best use this. For example, recent funding has been used to implement forest school sessions to enhance children's outdoor learning experiences. This helps to ensure that any gaps in children's learning are closed.
- Children who are learning English as an additional language receive effective support. Staff use children's home languages alongside English to help them settle quickly. This enables children to express their needs and be understood from the outset. As a result, children make good progress in developing their English language skills and gain the confidence they need to communicate successfully.
- Partnerships with parents are a significant strength of the nursery. Parents are

warmly welcomed to events such as weekly gardening sessions and stay-and-play activities. Communication is strong, with daily handovers, regular parents' evenings and online updates keeping parents well informed. Staff provide further support through a lending library and by sharing home-learning ideas. This effective partnership helps to extend children's learning beyond the nursery and strengthens outcomes.

- Staff promote children's healthy lifestyles effectively. Daily access to fresh air supports their well-being. Parents are engaged in promoting good oral health, with staff sharing information and providing resource packs for use at home. Children enjoy well-balanced snacks and meals and are encouraged to be independent in their self-care. For example, they wash their hands before eating and use cutlery to feed themselves, helping them to develop good hygiene habits and independence.
- Overall, leadership and management is effective, with strong support in place for staff's progression and well-being. Staff benefit from regular supervision sessions and access to ongoing training that develop their skills and knowledge. However, at times, activities for the youngest children are not fully aligned with their stage of development. This results in some learning experiences not being fully effective. For example, babies are occasionally encouraged to hold pencils and make marks before they have developed the fine motor control needed for this.
- Staff skilfully promote children's language and communication development. They give children time to think and respond, supporting them to engage in meaningful conversations. Carefully selected 'core books' are shared with enthusiasm, capturing children's interest and encouraging active participation. Staff further enhance children's understanding through the use of visual aids and sign language. Children are confident communicators.

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:

- review the organisation of free-flow play so that staff consistently support children's learning through high-quality interactions
- support baby-room staff to improve knowledge of individual children's stage of development so that all play experiences are delivered effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	512405
Local authority	Leeds
Inspection number	10414933
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	77
Number of children on roll	96
Name of registered person	Leeds City Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP900804
Telephone number	0113 2706166
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2022

Information about this early years setting

Little Owls Nursery Two Willows registered in 1991 and is situated in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The setting employs 25 members of childcare staff. Of these, 19 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm, excluding bank holidays, one week at Christmas and five staff training days per year. The nursery provides government-funded places for childcare and receives specific funding for disadvantaged children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jennifer Cowton

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this is having on the children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in 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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