

# Little Dragons Pre School

St. Georges C of E Primary School, White Lion Road, AMERSHAM, Buckinghamshire,  
HP7 9HX



## Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

31 May 2012

|                                                                                        |                         |             |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| <b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>                          | <b>This inspection:</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>2</b> |
|                                                                                        | Previous inspection:    | Good        | 2        |
| How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend |                         | Good        | 2        |
| The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children            |                         | Good        | 2        |
| The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision        |                         | Good        | 2        |
| The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>                   |                         |             |          |

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The pre-school staff respond well to the individual needs of children and provide a broad range of activities. This, therefore, encourages and supports children to make good progress in their learning.
- Staff work in partnership with parents to support children when they first start at the pre-school. This ensures that children settle quickly into the routines and feel confident to make choices when taking part in the activities.
- Leadership and management are strong. Staff are supported in their ongoing professional development. The manager identifies strengths across the staff team and possible training needs to improve practice.
- Children are developing good communication and language skills. Staff interact with them well and talk to them during their play to develop their language.
- Staff demonstrate a good knowledge of safeguarding children. They participate in child protection training, and are aware of the policies and procedures that are in place to safeguard children's welfare.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently reinforce children's, and parents, awareness of healthy lifestyles and options. Therefore, not all parents provide healthy options in their children's lunch boxes to reinforce healthy lifestyles.
- Staff do not present the library area and books in a way that encourages children to use it and choose books for themselves, to enhance their love of books and extend their literacy skills.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's understanding of healthy lifestyles and of healthy eating, for example, by sharing healthy lunchbox options with them and their parents
- improve the presentation of books to make them easier to choose, and more inviting, for children to choose independently.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play inside, outside and during mealtimes.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff at appropriate times during the inspection, and held meetings with the owner and manager of the provision.
- The inspector spoke to parents on the day of the inspection and took into account their views.
- The inspector looked at the children's records and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures, evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

## Inspector

Jane Osburn

## Inspection findings

### **How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good**

The pre-school provides a good range of resources and activities to promote children's learning and development. Staff ensure that they demonstrate to children how to use the equipment so that they have the confidence to select their own toys and fully participate in their play. A key person system is in place and generally works well to encourage parents' engagement in their children's learning. Information regarding children's learning is shared, along with strategies to help their ongoing development. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and their individual needs are met. Staff introduce mathematical ideas during children's play. For example, they encourage children to estimate whether a worm is longer or shorter than their own hand. Children have many opportunities to practise mark making skills within different activities across the nursery. For example, they complete shopping lists and menus within role play, and chalk on the floor outside to create a road as they play with the cars.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good**

The environment is safe and welcoming. Children have the opportunity to play outdoors for most of the day. There is a large outdoor space which offers a range of equipment. This allows children to be active and engage in physical play. Staff effectively join children in their play and use the natural environment to develop spontaneous learning opportunities. For example, discussing a lone crocus growing in the lawn or a large worm wriggling out from underneath the bark. Staff provide children with healthy snacks and explain the reasons why they need to wash their hands before handling food. Their independence is supported by staff ensuring that the children are involved in the choice and preparation of their own snack. Children, therefore, grow in confidence and this helps them in getting ready for their move into school.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good**

Leadership and management are strong. The provider works alongside the manager to ensure that all staff working with the children are suitably checked. The provider and manager are committed to promoting a high-quality pre-school to support the needs of all the children. They work together to evaluate the provision taking into account the views of parents, staff and children. This ensures that any areas for improvement are identified and developed. The manager monitors the progress that children are making from their starting points and ensures that this information is regularly shared with parents, so any gaps in the children's development are quickly identified and the appropriate support given. Staff benefit from regular training and the manager observes their performance. This means that children are provided with good-quality teaching and learning.

## Setting details

|                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | EY344912                 |
| <b>Local authority</b>             | Buckinghamshire          |
| <b>Inspection number</b>           | 835091                   |
| <b>Type of provision</b>           | Full-time provision      |
| <b>Registration category</b>       | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| <b>Age range of children</b>       | 0 - 8                    |
| <b>Total number of places</b>      | 40                       |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>  | 73                       |
| <b>Name of provider</b>            | Paul Kilby Aitchison     |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b> | 31 May 2012              |
| <b>Telephone number</b>            | 07702 559 116            |

Little Dragons Pre-School is privately owned. It was registered in November 2006. It operates from a purpose-designed building in the grounds of St George's Infant School in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. It is open on weekdays from 8am to 6pm, during term times. Little Dragons also provides a breakfast club, an after school club and holiday clubs for children in the local schools and surrounding area. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. The provider employs 14 members of staff who work directly with the children, 12 of which hold a valid childcare qualification.

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