

The Cottages Pre-School

54 King Street, LEICESTER, LE1 6RL



Inspection date

27 August 2015

Previous inspection date

19 March 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The area manager is forward thinking and knowledgeable. She inspires the management team and staff who are highly motivated and very enthusiastic. They are all dedicated to providing the very best for all the children.
- Children show they feel extremely safe, secure and happy in the nursery and the arrangements for safeguarding are robust.
- An extremely effective key-person system provides children with stability and helps them to develop positive relationships and gain confidence and self-esteem.
- Children relish the inviting and highly stimulating resources and atmosphere. As a result, all children are eager to learn and are highly motivated.
- Excellent information sharing between the whole nursery staff team, parents and other professionals involved with the children are very thorough. All children benefit extremely well from a coordinated approach to learning so that they develop to the highest level.
- Children's learning and development is closely monitored through precise assessments and includes all those involved in their learning. Consequently, planning is sharply focused and leads to children making rapid progress, taking account of their starting points. This means children acquire the key skills to prepare them for school.
- Excellent relationships are in place with the many schools that the children will attend.
- Staff seize regular opportunities to teach children about the diverse world they live in.
- Recommendations raised at the last inspection have been very well addressed. The owners, managers and all staff demonstrate an uncompromising commitment towards achieving excellence in all areas.

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 support given to all parents to help them guide their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the different playrooms.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector accompanied staff and children on a walk to a local park.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the area manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the area manager, the early years teacher and nursery managers.
- The inspector looked at a wide range of documents, including planning, self-evaluation, a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents through recently completed questionnaires, written notes and those spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Cathryn Wilkinson

Inspection findings

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

The highly qualified staff team is very knowledgeable about child development. The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff know what children are interested in because they constantly talk to them and watch them play. For example, children talk about their holidays and visits to the seaside. They visit the local park where they are excited to play 'on the beach' set up for summer. Back at the nursery, children skilfully use spades, count as they fill buckets and are amazed they can build sandcastles. Older children relish their visits to the forest where they build dens, paddle in streams and observe wildlife first hand. Everyday experiences become learning opportunities as they walk in the sunshine, observing shadows following them down the street and discover leaves changing through the seasons.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children are exceptionally well cared for. They feel very secure because staff work closely in partnership with parents to ensure they receive continuity in their care and learning. Furthermore, well-targeted early interventions needed for some children are highly effective and strengthen this work. Parents are reassured because staff spend time discussing children's progress. They say when their children start school, teachers comment how confident they are and that the children are already one step ahead. Parents are encouraged to continue their child's learning at home. However, managers recognise that there is potential to build further on the support given to parents to help them guide their children's learning at home. Staff are extremely good role models and continually play alongside the children, talking together to extend children's vocabulary. Continual positive praise and enthusiastic encouragement successfully promote children's self-esteem and exemplary behaviour. Staff expertly help children to be emotionally and socially ready for their move on to school, providing a seamless transition.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The inspiring commitment of the owners, managers and staff underpins a shared vision for achieving very high standards. Staff are highly qualified, experienced and ambitious to continue their learning. They embrace the excellent development and training procedures and fully understand how this has a positive impact, which benefits the children extremely well. Highly effective arrangements for recruiting new staff, regular supervisions and appraisals supports excellent practice. All staff skilfully drive improvements by rigorously checking children's progress and enhancing the range and quality of activities and resources. For example, when children visit the museum and relish exploring a sensory room, staff replicate the activities in the nursery for children to further investigate and explore.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY375589
Local authority	Leicester City
Inspection number	858311
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	100
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	The D.H. Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	19 March 2009
Telephone number	0116 223 6357

The Cottages Pre-School was registered in 2008 and is situated in Leicester. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, closing at Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old. It supports children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Of the nine staff who work at the nursery, five hold relevant qualifications equivalent to level 3, 4 and 5. In addition, two hold degrees in early years.

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