

The City Nursery Ltd

18 Northampton Square, Leicester, Leicestershire LE1 1PA



Inspection date	25 October 2018
Previous inspection date	1 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- The experienced provider and manager create an ethos which values working in partnership with parents. They successfully engage parents in their children's development and learning at home and in the nursery. Parents compliment the friendly and caring staff who take time to get to know children and families well.
- The manager has high expectations of staff's care and teaching practice. She has established effective support systems to promote staff's continuing professional development, including leadership training. Staff have a nominated key worker from the senior leadership team to provide ongoing advice and support.
- Staff have thoughtfully transformed the spacious city centre accommodation to offer children an exciting and stimulating learning environment across all areas of learning. Children thoroughly enjoy the outdoor activities in the 'rooftop garden'. They grow and harvest vegetables and learn to use a range of garden tools as they freely dig in the soil.
- Staff place a strong emphasis on developing children's confidence and independence. Babies and younger children happily use face cloths to wipe their hands and faces after lunch, and older children make decisions about the appropriate clothing and footwear for water-play gardening. Children relish their roles as monitors to help keep the nursery tidy and safe.
- Children take great pleasure in sharing stories and rhymes with staff and each other. They are enthralled by staff's lively storytelling techniques and excitedly anticipate joining in with familiar actions and lines.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently challenge children to take their learning to the highest level, in particular during the afternoons.
- Occasionally, staff do not ask questions and talk more readily to children as they explore and investigate, to further encourage their thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- respond to and build on all opportunities to extend children's learning to the highest level
- support staff to ask questions and talk more readily to children, to further encourage their thinking skills as they explore and investigate.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jane Millward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and her senior staff team are highly organised. They use a range of information, including that from parents, children and staff to accurately evaluate the quality of their provision and target future development. For example, they have increased the opportunities for children to develop their mathematical skills. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust policies and procedures are consistently implemented by all staff. The manager provides frequent updates to staff. She uses individual staff competency audits to ensure that all staff maintain the highest level of understanding about their responsibilities to keep children safe from harm. The manager has well-established systems to monitor the learning progress of individual and groups of children. Prompt action is taken by senior staff to identify and close any gaps in children's learning. Additional funding is used effectively to provide suitable resources and support for children's learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good knowledge of child development. They use information from parents, together with their own observations and assessments of children's learning, to plan effectively for children's next steps. Staff are good role models and promote children's language and communication skills well. They encourage children to listen carefully and provide clear and precise explanations and instructions. Children who speak English as an additional language quickly learn and use new words in English. Staff skilfully use games to develop children's mathematical and literacy skills. For example, children compete to collect the correct shapes in a card game. Staff provide a range of interesting resources to develop children's technology skills. Young children learn how to use buttons and flaps to produce lights and sounds and make toys move. Older children learn to use simple programs to direct toys.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff focus strongly on developing children's health and well-being. Children learn about the benefits of a healthy diet, fresh air and physical exercise. Young children attempt challenging climbing activities and use scooters and cycles to develop their leg muscles. Older children enjoy weekly sports and yoga sessions. Staff encourage children to learn about personal safety. They talk to children and parents about the steps they can take to protect themselves when they access the internet. Staff provide attractive resources, displays and photographs to support children's awareness of different communities and enhance their understanding of disability. Staff consistently reinforce positive behaviour and praise children as they show consideration for others.

Outcomes for children are good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery. They confidently enter and quickly settle to enjoy the wide range of activities. They are inquisitive and seek out new resources and activities. Babies chuckle as they investigate the textured wall boards and recognise themselves in the large mirrors. Older children use their water play to learn that some items float and others sink. All children make good progress and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, including their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226965
Local authority	Leicester
Inspection number	10070954
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	160
Number of children on roll	65
Name of registered person	The City Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906521
Date of previous inspection	1 April 2015
Telephone number	01162470166 01162545441

The City Nursery Ltd registered in 1980. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and three hold level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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