

Dukes & Duchesses Day Nursery



Dukes Terrace, Duke Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L1 4JS

Inspection date 16 January 2015
Previous inspection date 1 June 2010

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

- Teaching throughout the nursery is inspirational. Staff provide children with a vast range of exciting and explorative learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. Consequently, all children are motivated and making excellent progress.
- All children, including a large majority of children from different groups, such as those who speak English as an additional language, are supported at the highest level, to help them make rapid progress.
- Settling-in procedures are highly robust. Additionally, children are very well supported as they move through the nursery. As a result, children make strong attachments to staff and settle quickly.
- Highly experienced and qualified staff act as mentors and provide excellent planning and assessment training to newly appointed staff and existing staff. As a result, all staff are highly skilled in assessing children's learning.
- The staff team ensures the diversity of families with children attending the nursery and the wider community around them are exceptionally valued and celebrated.
- Highly comprehensive safeguarding procedures are understood by all staff, particularly procedures for risk assessment and security. As a result, children are kept safe in the nursery.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are exemplary. Information is shared through a variety of ways to ensure that all parents and professionals can contribute. Consequently children benefit from a continuity of care and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already outstanding opportunities for children to make the best use of resources for learning, for example, by ensuring that visual displays are at child height and can be seen by all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed activities in all playrooms and the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the early years professional
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of policies and procedures, to include risk assessment and security procedures.

Inspector

Rebecca Stead

Inspection findings

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

The nursery is a vibrant and inspiring environment with a dynamic team who support children to reach their highest level of achievement. The staff team work closely together to ensure they provide an outstanding range of challenging learning experiences throughout the nursery. All staff ensure children's interests are at the heart of the wonderfully enriched planning. Children in the toddler room, who speak English as an additional language, learn new language skills rapidly. They look through their favourite books and listen to talk boxes, which have simple sentences pre-recorded by their family members. Children benefit from a forest-themed approach to teaching, which prepares children to learn about nature and the world around them, both indoors and outdoors. Consequently, children are developing essential skills for future learning. Assessments are sharply focussed. These are shared with parents during the frequent breakfast mornings held at the nursery.

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

All staff provide superior emotional support for children who make their move to and from the nursery and up to each new room. This is because procedures for settling in are robust, so children make strong attachments to their key person. Staff provide home visits, to enable children to feel secure in their company. Care practices support children's self-esteem and independence. Older children learn to brush their teeth effectively before and after meals. Additionally, staff support children to serve themselves healthy food at mealtimes. Staff provide learning opportunities through the use of visual resources. However, some visual displays are not at a height appropriate for young children to be able to use them. There is plenty of opportunity for children to climb on large play equipment during frequent outdoor activities, such as forest walks and tree climbing. All staff implement excellent safe working practices and encourage children to manage their own risks as they play. Parents spoken to on the day of inspection speak highly of the exceptional support they are offered during their child's stay at the nursery.

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

Leadership is inspirational. Managers effectively supervise and monitor staff performance. Recruitment is robust and all staff are highly trained and qualified. As a result, all staff have an expert knowledge of quality teaching practices and assessment procedures. Managers work closely with various quality improvement programmes and provide support to neighbouring nurseries, which enables them to make excellent links with other professionals to further support children. Arrangements to work with parents and external agencies are quickly in place should staff have a concern for a child's development. As a result, all children are making superb progress towards the early learning goals. Managers aspire to improve their services through the use of detailed improvement plans. Highly comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures are understood and effectively implemented by the staff. Consequently, all children are very well safeguarded.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY261963
Local authority	Liverpool
Inspection number	860550
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	78
Number of children on roll	131
Name of provider	Top Class Day Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	1 June 2010
Telephone number	0151 709 1186

Dukes and Duchesses Nursery was registered in 2003. It is situated in a purpose-built premises in Liverpool city centre, and is privately owned. It operates from six playrooms and there is an enclosed area available for outdoor play. The nursery employs 25 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and 18 staff are qualified at level 6. Three staff have Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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