

Little Ducklings Nursery

County Junior Middle & Infant School, Twizell Lane, West Pelton, STANLEY, County Durham, DH9 6SQ



Inspection date	23 January 2015
Previous inspection date	21 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are very safe in the setting, because staff have a very good understanding of their role and responsibility to safeguard children. They undertake regular risk assessments to ensure that the environment is free from hazards and they supervise children closely indoors and out.
- Highly qualified staff support less qualified staff very well and are good role models. This has a positive impact on staff practice and continued improvement.
- Staff use information from parents and regular observations to accurately assess children's progress and to plan interesting activities, which reflect their interests and stages of development.
- Children are very happy and secure in the setting. They develop strong bonds with staff and become engrossed in activities from the moment they arrive in the morning.
- Children know that healthy food and regular exercise are good for them. This is because staff provide healthy snacks and drinks and plan activities, which promote healthy lifestyles.
- Partnership with parents are very good and support children's learning and development. As a result parents feel valued, well informed and involved in their children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children's enthusiasm for investigating and exploring is unnecessarily interrupted by the current organisation of snack time.
- Sometimes, children are not given time to think and respond to questions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of snack time by making this more flexible, so that children who are deeply engrossed in independent learning, are not unnecessarily interrupted
- enhance children's already good thinking skills by always giving them time to think and respond to a question before another one is asked.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took a tour of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities in the classroom and outdoor environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed regulatory documentation including suitability checks, children's records and a selection of policies, procedures and risk assessments.

Inspector

Julia Matthew

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good and as a result, all children make good progress. Children are motivated and excited to learn because staff provide interesting and developmentally appropriate activities and experiences for them. For example, they enjoy making predictions when undertaking experiments to investigate freezing and melting. Overall, staff use questioning very effectively to extend children's knowledge and understanding. However, occasionally, children are not given enough time to think and respond to questions. Parents are well informed about children's development and work very well with staff to support learning. For example, they visited with family pets to help children learn about animal needs and care. Children are very well supported to be ready for school. They are welcomed into school assemblies and eat their meals in the dining hall. In addition, routines in the setting reflect those in school and help children to make the move with confidence.

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

Staff have a very good understanding of how to keep children safe, including what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Children are very well supervised and cared for at all times. Staff recognise the importance of allowing children to take some risks in their play and as a result, they are beginning to risk assess for themselves. For example, they show a good awareness of how to move safely around the icy outdoor area. The key-person system successfully helps to support children's emotional development and well-being. Children confidently approach staff for help, encouragement and support when they need it. The environment is very well resourced and vibrant displays support learning and celebrate children's achievements. Children become engrossed in activities, showing high levels of involvement and deep learning. However, sometimes the current organisation of snack can interrupt this unnecessarily. Behaviour is very good, children play co-operatively and understand why they need to follow rules.

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

The manager has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. Risk assessments minimise hazards and a comprehensive set of policies promote health and safety, and are reflected in practice. Children's progress is closely monitored to ensure that all children, including those for whom English is an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. Robust systems are in place for staff supervision and training, reflecting the needs of the children and having a positive impact on practice. The manager undertakes self-evaluation, which takes into account the views of children, parents and staff. These are used to influence a continuous improvement plan. Partnerships with parents are very good and they are fully involved in their children's learning. Consequently, parents are very happy with the setting. The manager is committed to working in partnership with other organisations and professionals and as a result, children's learning and development is very well supported.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY412842
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	851337
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	17
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Little Ducklings Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	21 June 2011
Telephone number	0191 3700238

Little Ducklings Nursery and Out of School is a private company and was registered in 2010. The nursery employs two members of childcare staff. Of these, both hold appropriate early years qualifications, one at level 3 and one with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery is situated in West Pelton Primary School and has close links with the school. It opens Monday to Friday during term time, from 9am until 12pm. The Out of School club is open, from 3.30pm until 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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