

Blackburne House Nursery

Blackburne Place, Off Hope Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L8 7PE



Inspection date

19 February 2015

Previous inspection date

9 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Strong and effective partnership working takes place between school teachers and the nursery managers. This results in children being confident and prepared for school.
- Partnership work with outside agencies is effective. Targeted teaching for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is in place. This means that all children make good progress and are prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Staff get to know the children and parent's well. This helps children form secure emotional attachments and promotes their well-being effectively.
- The managers and staff are committed and reflect on any necessary changes needed for improvement.
- Rigorous safeguarding procedures are effective. This ensures children's welfare is protected and they are kept safe from harm.
- Children's behaviour is good, they are considerate and learn to share resources during play. This is because staff are positive role models and give clear guidance as to what is acceptable behaviour.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not gather enough information about children's existing skills and knowledge from parents when they first join the nursery, to plan and further support their immediate learning needs.
- Staff supervision and monitoring lacks focus in some aspects and at times, this has an impact on the quality of teaching, especially with new and less experienced staff.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- establish firmer starting points for children's learning, by seeking precise, detailed information about their prior learning and development from parents, when they first join the nursery
- strengthen staff supervision and monitoring systems, to include a greater focus on enhancing the already good quality of teaching, for example, by ensuring that evaluations of staff practice are sharply focused on providing constructive support especially to the new and less experienced staff.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the managers and spoke with children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the nursery's self-evaluation and development plans.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Kellie Lever

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They provide a broad range of fun, interesting and challenging experiences for children that meet their individual needs well and current interests. As a result, children are highly engaged and eager to learn. Babies enjoy making marks in the sand and independently move around and explore their surroundings. Younger children contently sit with staff and read stories of their choice. While older children explore what happens when they mix different coloured paint. Children identify different parts of their body and are encouraged to think about their different senses. For example, children are asked what their noses are used for and what they can smell. This is extended further at lunchtime as children are asked what vegetables they can taste in the soup. As a result, children are beginning to learn how their body works.

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

The key-person system works well and children are given time to develop relationships with staff. This supports each child's move from home into the nursery and ensures their social and emotional well-being is fostered successfully. Parents provide information about their children's care needs. However, staff do not gather enough detailed information about children's existing skills and knowledge, to help them to plan for their immediate learning needs from the start. Children have fresh air and are active outdoors. They run around, ride bicycles and explore the outdoor environment. Children learn about their local community and take part in cultural celebrations. For example, children have trips out to the museum and visit the local town during Chinese new year.

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

Policies and procedures are effective in underpinning good practice. Thorough risk assessments are carried out, to ensure that hazards to children are identified and steps taken to limit risks. This means that children can play safely indoors and outside. Overall, effective supervision and monitoring systems are in place. However, these systems are not always sharply focused, to ensure the good quality of teaching is always consistently high throughout the whole team. Observation and accurate assessments are in place for children's learning. Parents are informed about their child's progress and continue their learning at home. The managers have a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff have all attended additional training since the last inspection which has had a positive impact on their current practice. As a result, all previous actions and recommendations have been addressed. The nursery received support from the local authority.

Setting details

Unique reference number	322362
Local authority	Liverpool
Inspection number	991063
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Blackburne House
Date of previous inspection	9 September 2014
Telephone number	0151 709 4356

Blackburne House Nursery was registered in 1994. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 13 members of staff. Two hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 4, eight at level 3, two at level 2 and one with Early Years Professional status.

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