

# Safe Hands

St. Cuthberts C of E School, St. Albans Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0HY



## Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

20 May 2009

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

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The well-established staff team provides good security for the children who have regular attendance at the out of school provision and for those returning to holiday clubs. As a result, children are familiar and relaxed in the company of the staff. This promotes their emotional well-being and allows them to play with confidence.
- The owner/manager has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Child protection procedures are securely understood by the staff. Also, simple but effective ways to keep children supervised and safe while at the setting, are implemented by the staff.
- Children enjoy daily access to a wide range of toys and activities that promote their learning across the seven areas of learning. Close communication with school staff enables staff to plan and provide additional activities, which complement children's learning within the classroom.
- Parents are very appreciative of the sensitive and supportive way staff engage with them, to ensure that their child's unique learning and health needs are met. They receive a range of regularly updated information through displays, leaflets, electronic communication media and discussion.
- Staff ensure that the way they care for the children supports them to be happy, behave and play well with each other. Children share well when using the equipment. Older children are attentive and caring towards the younger children as they sit together.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not always have access to the fuller range of resources when outdoors, such as things to explore their natural environment or to make marks and draw with.
- Managers carry out supervision meetings with staff but do not focus sharply on improving teaching.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make available a wider range of equipment for children to use while outdoors, so they have chances to participate in activities that allow them to be more spontaneously creative, make marks or explore their natural environment
- strengthen the existing arrangements for supervision and staff development by introducing opportunities for them to share their knowledge and skills to enhance the good quality of teaching further.

### Inspection activities

- Prior to the inspection, the inspector viewed the setting's self-evaluation document.
- The inspector viewed activities in the dining room, main school hall and the outdoor areas. He also viewed the equipment used on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. He also held meetings with the nominated person/manager and a teacher of the school.
- The inspector held a number of informal discussions with the manager, during which he explored her understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the aspects of learning children are gaining from their play.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, risk assessments, accident records, and evidence of the qualifications and suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector checked the arrangements for first-aid trained staff and their deployment.

### Inspector

Frank Kelly

## Inspection findings

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

Children have access to a good range of equipment and activities that ensure they participate in play of their choice. Staff sit with the children to support them during their play. Children make models with recycled cartons, glue and tape. When they ask for help, staff skilfully support them to think critically by asking questions, such as 'How do you think we can do this?' As a result, children participate more fully in their own active learning. They sustain prolonged interest, which helps them to develop their ability to concentrate. Staff consult with school staff about children's needs and learning. They organise activities to support children's wider skills, such as things that help large arm movements and coordination. Children eagerly use pens for colouring and construction blocks, which develop their grip, spatial awareness and design. Consequently, children are well supported to consolidate skills, which promote their readiness for learning in class. Children show an interest in books and staff support counting skills during card games. Outside, there is plenty of equipment to be active with, such as a climbing and balancing frame, footballs and skipping ropes. However, there is less equipment readily available outdoors that allows children to explore their natural world, such as bug viewers or things to make marks or draw with.

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

The core staff team have worked together for several years and they are relaxed in their interactions with the children. As a result, children are cared for by familiar adults and demonstrate a sense of belonging. Trips out during holiday club provide children with chances to visit new places. Staff support them to learn and practise procedures, such as good road safety. They follow suitable hygiene procedures. Staff encourage children to adopt ways to promote their own health, including hand washing. Children are served fresh fruit at snack time to encourage healthy eating. They learn to be independent through taking care of their coats and helping to set up and tidy away.

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

Good policies and procedures for the safe management of the setting, are implemented well by staff. For example, staff use hand-held communication devices to maintain contact between the indoor and outdoor play areas. Consequently, children are well supervised. Suitable arrangements for dealing with and recording accidents are in place. Also, risk assessment and regular fire drills are conducted. All staff have been vetted and hold relevant childcare qualifications, which means that children are cared for by suitably experienced adults. The staff team meet regularly to discuss ideas and informal supervision and appraisal takes place. However, the owner/manager has not explored how this could be used to develop staff's skills further, to enhance the quality of teaching even more. Nevertheless, secure self-evaluation is undertaken and the views of children and parents are sought to help plan for future improvement. All recommendations from the last inspection have been addressed.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY360105
<b>Local authority</b>	Blackburn
<b>Inspection number</b>	857593
<b>Type of provision</b>	
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	32
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	80
<b>Name of provider</b>	Samantha Tully
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	20 May 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	01254 701 336

Safe Hands was registered in 2007. The setting employs four members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate play work and early years qualifications at level 2, 3 or 6. The setting opens from Monday to Friday term time. Sessions are from 7.30am until 8.50am and 3.15pm until 6.15pm. The holiday club opens from Monday to Friday school holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.15pm.

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