

Bickerstaffe Lodge

Bickerstaffe C of E Primary School, Hall Lane, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 0EH



Inspection date

10 April 2015

Previous inspection date

16 March 2009

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

- Staff provide a wide range of exciting activities that successfully capture children's interest in learning and help them to develop the skills they need for their future and starting school.
- Staff regularly observe and assess children's progress, using this information to plan purposeful activities to support the next steps in their learning. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff promote children's confidence and self-motivation well. Children form strong bonds with their key person and, as a result, they are happy, settled and well behaved.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Staff share information regarding children's development and involve parents in their children's ongoing learning. They liaise with external agencies to ensure children receive the best possible support.
- The safeguarding and protection of children is given very good attention and children clearly feel safe and secure.
- The manager provides staff with a positive role model as she works as part of the team, which successfully influences good practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always maximise opportunities for children to further develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- The setting has not yet developed a range of natural materials and resources to support babies' and young children's sensory development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities to support children's ability to think creatively and critically by providing even more opportunities for them to reach their own conclusions and solve problems
- develop a range and variety of natural resources, such as shells, feathers, wooden objects, metal utensils and fabrics, so that babies and young children are able to explore a range of sensory experiences daily.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and in the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- 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 and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

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

Staff are well-qualified, enthusiastic practitioners who have high expectations of the children. As a result, the quality of teaching is good. Children's communication skills are actively encouraged. Staff talk with children about what they are doing and consistently ask open-ended questions to help them make links in their learning and to encourage thinking. However, opportunities for children to reach their own conclusions and solve problems are not always taken full advantage of. This is because staff are sometimes too quick to solve problems for them rather than allowing them time to test out their own theories and ideas. A good range of resources, such as books, puppets, instruments and construction equipment, are stored in boxes that are easily accessible and clearly labelled to allow children to make independent choices in their play and learning. However, the range of resources available does not include natural resources and materials to develop and promote babies' and young children's sensory development. Children of all ages have opportunities to develop their skills in early writing. Mathematical understanding is equally well promoted, as staff encourage children to count and recognise written numerals as they fill containers and count plastic bugs in the water tray.

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

The effective key-person system ensures children's individual learning and well-being needs are provided for. Staff know children's interests and support their emotional well-being very well. Consequently, children are very happy, confident and engaged in their learning. Children's achievements are celebrated. Staff reward children with stickers, which further develops their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Hygiene practices are well established. Children know when it is appropriate to wash their hands, such as after outdoor play or before cooking activities. Children develop positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles as they enjoy healthy snacks and have access to fresh air and exercise daily. They are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they climb and balance in the wonderful outdoor area. Children learn about the world around them and how to care for living things as they feed the ducks that visit them while they play. Staff help children to learn routines and understand what they expect of them. For example, children take responsibility for tidying up and putting things away where they belong.

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

The staff have a very robust knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They all undertake regular training and, as a result, know how to protect children from harm. Children's progress is monitored regularly and reviewed by the manager to ensure that each child enjoys a broad and suitably stimulating educational programme. Staff development is supported through regular appraisals and training opportunities. The manager accurately identifies, through self-evaluation, how the setting can improve further, to benefit children and their families.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315683
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	856793
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Bickerstaffe Children's Services Ltd
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2009
Telephone number	01695 722 957

Bickerstaffe Lodge is run by a voluntary committee and was registered in 2005. The nursery and out-of-school club operates from a purpose-built, one-story building in the grounds of Bickerstaffe Primary School, Ormskirk. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The setting opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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