

Ducklings Day Nursery

Barnston Lane, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 7TP



Inspection date

27 May 2015

Previous inspection date

8 April 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

- Safeguarding of children is good because staff know the procedures to follow and a policy is in place, which underpins practice. This is reviewed and updated regularly. Safety is maintained because, the premises are secure and staff are vigilant regarding access to the setting.
- Teaching across the staff team is rooted in a very secure knowledge of how children learn. Staff have a clear understanding about how the areas of learning are connected. Planning for children's learning is robustly undertaken and accurately targets each child's individual learning needs.
- Staff know their key children really well. They respond sensitively and quickly to children, so that children's needs for rest or comfort are quickly attended to. Children have developed strong attachments, which helps them to feel emotionally secure and content while at nursery.
- Staff promote healthy eating and healthy practices. Children follow good hygiene routines, including brushing their teeth after mealtimes. As a result, children learn about healthy lifestyles.
- Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Staff provide effective support to prepare them for this when they start at the nursery, as they progress through the setting and as they move into school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully support children to develop their understanding of words and their early-reading skills when they choose to play outdoors.
- Staff do not always make best use of the outdoor space to provide opportunities for children to build on their learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children to continue to learn about words outdoors, for example by using signs and names to create an environment rich in print
- extend children's skills across all areas of learning when they play outdoors, for example, by making better use of space within the garden.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the manager of the nursery.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities in the nursery indoor and outdoor areas and spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records and information and spoke to their key persons.

Inspector

Ron Goldsmith

Inspection findings

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

Staff extend children's learning as a result of their careful and well-focused observations. They use skilful questioning and promote children's thinking through a range of interesting and challenging activities. For example, children carry out simple experiments to extend thinking as they measure, transport and carry water to the fire engine they have created using building blocks. They carefully pour water through the funnels and pipes. Staff make sure children develop the skills needed for school, promoting thoughtful responses by asking lots of open questions. Staff encourage children to listen well to a story about tigers, and use props and resources to engage children in learning. Children are beginning to develop excellent listening skills and recognise letter sounds through purposeful and well-planned phonics exercises. However, staff do not provide enough opportunities for children who prefer to play and learn outdoors to see words in print, in order to build further on their good literacy skills.

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

Staff create a warm and welcoming environment. An effective individual key-person system meets children's individual needs well. Consequently, children's emotional well-being is effectively supported. Children learn to understand potential risks through discussions. For example, they talk about how to build and climb safely using large blocks. The nursery has a range of resources and children are free to initiate their own play. The outside area offers some interesting places for children to investigate, such as the mud garden. However, children's outdoor learning experience is sometimes restricted because staff do not always use the space well enough. Therefore, children's learning experiences in the outdoors are not always as rich as those indoors. Staff ensure children are able to drink plenty of water during the day and promote healthy eating and healthy practices. Children follow good hygiene routines, including brushing their teeth after mealtimes. Children are well supported through times of change.

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

Staff are well qualified and attend relevant training to further their professional development. This means they fully understand and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are provided with a targeted programme of supervision that supports their teaching practice. The manager monitors educational programmes effectively for individuals and groups of children to ensure children's needs are met. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress through daily feedback and access to their child's learning journal. Parents of babies receive a daily diary that includes information about their children's time in the nursery. Parents talk about their satisfaction with their children's progress, and about the friendly and approachable staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY313659
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	856752
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	33
Number of children on roll	58
Name of provider	Carol Elizabeth Butler and Neil Thomas Butler Partnership
Date of previous inspection	8 April 2009
Telephone number	0151 678 5050

Ducklings Day Nursery was registered in 2005. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The setting is open all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Nine staff work with the children. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3 or 4, one has a degree, and one has Qualified Teacher Status.

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