

Playmates 2 Nurseries Ltd

136 Hough Green Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 4PG



Inspection date

27 May 2015

Previous inspection date

26 April 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

- Staff have a secure knowledge of how the children learn and provide a rich, varied and imaginative programme of activities and play opportunities. As a result, all children make good progress, in readiness for the next stage in their learning.
- Children are encouraged to be independent and successfully do things for themselves. Therefore, children gain high levels of confidence in a safe environment which, consequently, ensures that they are ready for school.
- Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection and safeguarding children. Consequently, children are well protected and kept safe from harm.
- Partnerships with parent are strong. Parents are involved in children's assessment and learning, and their feedback is welcomed. This has a positive impact on the care and education their children receive.
- The manager provides strong leadership within the setting. She is supported well by a highly committed staff team. All share a clear vision and determination to give each child the best possible start in life.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend older children's thinking skills.
- Staff do not always plan exciting and challenging activities for children who learn best in the outdoor environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the use of a wider range of teaching strategies, for example, by using skilful questioning to support older children to share their knowledge in more detail
- review and reflect on the current planning systems, to ensure that children who learn best outside are provided with a wider range of activities that interest them in the outdoor environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector spoke to both children and staff, and observed play and learning activities within the main environment and the outdoor environment.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector met with the manager, and checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and the provider's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.

Inspector

Alison Regan

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. Staff provide children with a wide variety of fun activities and exciting learning experiences. For example, when indoors younger children develop their sensory experiences as they explore the texture of spaghetti. Older children work together to decide which size car will travel the fastest down the plastic guttering. However, this is not always the case in the outdoor environment. This is because staff do not always recognise in their planning that some children learn best in the outdoors. As a result, some children sometimes wander around in the outdoors looking for activities that motivate and excite them. Children's communication and language skills are generally well promoted throughout the nursery, as staff interact well with them and engage in constant discussion throughout their play. However, occasionally staff miss opportunities to skilfully question children during activities. For example, during a planned activity, children learn about objects that float and sink. Older children are not always effectively questioned and challenged to test out their knowledge of why the objects would float or sink. As a result, their critical thinking skills are not always well promoted.

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

The strong skills of staff ensure all children are emotionally well prepared when they first begin attending the nursery and when they move rooms. Staff are good role models. They give children positive, clear instructions so that children know what is expected. There are a good range of resources, which enable children to make their own choices and become motivated learners. Children learn about effective hygiene routines through their daily routines. Children and staff discuss which food is good for them at snack time, promoting their understanding of healthy eating. Staff provide a variety of outdoor equipment to support children's physical skills. They enjoy riding wheeled toys and balancing on beams. Children are supported well during their move to school. Staff share information so teachers have a good understanding of children's needs and know what they can do before they begin school.

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

Leadership and management are strong and staff have regular supervisions. Staff are given access to a wide range of opportunities to continue their professional development. As a result, staff are well qualified and have excellent knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This results in good learning outcomes for children. There are effective tracking systems in place, which enables staff to quickly identify and address any gaps in children's learning. The manager has a clear drive for improvement. A well-documented self-evaluation and individual room plans clearly demonstrates that together with the staff she has the capacity to improve this good provision. Effective strategies are used to ensure parents feel informed about their children's learning. They are regularly invited to parents' evenings, where they have the opportunity to talk to their child's key person.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303449
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	867457
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	73
Name of provider	Playmates Nurseries Ltd
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2011
Telephone number	0151 424 2486

Playmates 2 Nurseries Ltd was registered in 2000. It is one of two nurseries owned by Playmates Nurseries Ltd. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one at level 6 and the manager holds a Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from 8am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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