

Cliff House Nursery

19 Lambert Road, Ribbleson, Preston, Lancs, PR2 6YQ



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

3 June 2015

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Teaching is good and different groups of children, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities progress well in their learning. This is because staff make frequent checks of what children can do and use this information fully to plan for children's next steps.
- Staff are very caring and they are interested in how children develop and learn. This begins successfully in the baby room and continues throughout the nursery. As a result, children of different ages are happy, settled and have good relationships with friends and with their named worker.
- Parents are informed clearly and regularly about their child's progress by their key person from the staff team. New systems of sharing information securely and online are very popular with parents.
- The nursery manager has an accurate understanding of what the nursery does well and where further improvement is needed. She makes good use of this knowledge to challenge and support staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some walls of the baby room are too bare and not used carefully enough to support teaching and learning.
- On occasion, some activities to support two- and three-year-old children to draw and write do not match children's needs and interests.
- Some reviews of the nursery and plans for the future are recorded too briefly or shared fully with staff to help the nursery to succeed even more.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the walls of the baby room more attractive at babies' eye-level and use this within teaching, for example by including photographs of babies and their families
- strengthen staff training and improve planning so that all drawing and writing activities are meaningful for children
- ensure that more information from reviews of the nursery and plans for the future are recorded, so to give more focus to the work of leaders and make it easier to share details with the whole staff team.

Inspection activities

- Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) spoke to children and observed care, learning and teaching in the nursery classrooms and outdoors. Some teaching was observed jointly with the nursery manager/owner.
- Meetings were held with the nursery manager/owner, and a range of staff.
- HMI spoke to some parents and carers.
- HMI checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of nursery staff.
- HMI considered a range of documents including: reviews of how well the nursery is developing; plans for the future; documents about the care and protection of children; evidence from support visits by the local authority; plans for learning; and information about children's progress.

Inspector

Tim Vaughan Her Majesty's Inspector

Inspection findings

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

Staff assess children's skills and abilities frequently and carefully. They check their observations against what is typical for young children and make good use of this information to plan what children will learn next. Successful links are made with parents and other agencies to help children to develop. Staff know individual children well. They ensure that the needs of different groups, for example children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities, are supported fully. Teaching across the nursery is successful and this helps children to progress quickly; the oldest are ready for the move to primary school. For example, creative use is made of opportunities for older children to act out stories such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' while in the nursery garden. During the inspection, HMI observed that some activities intended to support two- and three-year old children to draw and write did not have much interest or relevance for them. In the baby room, staff arrange toys and objects well to provide interesting learning activities for the youngest children. They talk gently, give babies appropriate choices and give them much encouragement. However, the walls of their classroom are a little bare when viewed at babies' eye-level. Therefore, this aspect of the nursery is not being used well to support learning.

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

Throughout the nursery children are happy and feel at ease with their classmates. They enjoy activities and relate well to staff, including at group times with their key person. Staff are very caring and this means that babies and toddlers are given hugs and cuddles as appropriate and older children are given lots of opportunities to talk about how they feel. The nursery plans carefully for children's meals and children enjoy a range of healthy foods. Cake making activities are very popular and used well by the cook and staff for teaching. Staff have a clear understanding of children's care and protection, including how to keep sleeping babies safe.

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

The nursery manager/owner takes a uniquely informal approach to her oversight of the nursery. She spends much time within classrooms, supporting and observing staff. This gives her a good understanding of the strengths of the nursery and she has set clear areas for improvement. The manager and deputy manager are well-qualified and have a good understanding of national requirements for the education, care and protection of young children. Staff value the support that they are given by leaders, including through individual meetings. The manager/owner has increased staff access to training because she is ambitious for the team to develop further. As a result of these strengths, the setting is improving steadily. Staff are motivated and want to learn more about working with young children. However, the owner/manager records too little of her reviews of the nursery and her plans for the future. This is beginning to hold the nursery back from achieving the very best it can.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY487021
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1016099
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	99
Name of provider	Cliff House Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01772795368

Cliff House Nursery was registered in 2015. It is a re-registration of a nursery operated by the provider at this site since 1990. It is situated in a detached building in the Ribbleton area of Preston. There are 16 staff working with children across four rooms over two floors and two enclosed outdoor play areas. Two members of staff hold an early years qualification at level 2. There are fourteen staff who hold early years qualifications at level 3. One member of staff has Early Years Professional status.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. It provides places for babies and toddlers as well as funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery is open Monday to Friday 8am to 5.45pm for 51 weeks a year.

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