

Hummingbirds Educational Nursery



Castle Lane Community Centre, Castle Lane, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1RB

Inspection date	8 June 2015
Previous inspection date	11 October 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

- Parents are valued and make a positive contribution to the nursery. Partnerships between home and nursery are strong.
- Practitioners have high expectations in regards to behaviour. It is managed fairly and consistently by all staff. Children are given gentle reminders about the rules if needed.
- Children have continuous access to the outdoors and can make choices about where they would like to play.
- Practitioners use the children's interests to plan meaningful activities and arrange the different areas of the room based on this.
- Children are able to access a wide range of resources to promote their problem solving skills.
- Practitioners use skilful questioning techniques to challenge what the children know and further them along in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers do not always use the supervision process to highlight areas of staff practice that could be developed further.
- Practitioners do not always ensure that children preparing for school benefit from a balance of adult and child-led activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the staff supervision system to ensure it includes areas of practice that each individual staff member can develop further
- ensure that children who are preparing to go to school receive an appropriate balance of free play opportunities and focused adult-led activities to maximise their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning both indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times throughout the day and carried out a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into account.
- The inspector looked at documentation including children's records, planning and assessment, staff suitability and a selection of policies and procedures, for example, safeguarding and the complaints procedure.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Estelle Noblett

Inspection findings

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

Children are happy and confident as they interact with each other and the practitioners. They often encourage others to join in with their play. When outside, children made ramps with a plank of wood to climb up the climbing frame instead of the stairs. They called to their friends to assist and they did so willingly. Practitioners ensure that they complete a starting point assessment on each child and, parents and other professionals are asked to contribute to this. Practitioners have developed a simple method of sharing information when the children attend more than one setting. This ensures that the approach is consistent and assessments made show an accurate picture of all children. The learning environment is mainly child led. This does not always enable practitioners to carry out focused activities for individual children that relate to their needs and interests and support their next steps in learning.

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

Children learn to make healthy choices. At snack time they choose from a range of fruit and water or milk. However, practitioners do not always provide clean plates when a child sits down at the table. Practitioners have developed strong links with the local schools and this is beneficial when children move onto school. Children are supported by visits from the teacher and frequent discussions and activities that prepare them for school. Practitioners encourage the children to be independent within the environment and to complete self-help tasks such as washing their hands. Children know that adults are always close by to support them if necessary. The key-person system is well established and parents are kept informed if any changes are made. Children are encouraged to take risks during play. They collect water from the water butt and use a range of tools safely.

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

Managers have a clear vision for the setting and use self-evaluation effectively to set targets and drive improvements. This is done with the support of the whole staff team and with parent input. Supervision meetings with each team member are carried out every six weeks and any problems are identified. Managers do not routinely look at the staff member's main strengths and weaknesses in order to improve their practice. Leaders have a good overview of all the children in the setting and this enables them to put targeted support in place when gaps are identified. If necessary managers liaise with other professionals and use their own knowledge to put support in place for the children if needed. Managers and leaders are knowledgeable about the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and implement this effectively when planning for all seven areas of learning. Regular team meetings and discussions with staff ensure that all practitioners feel supported.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY340518
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	862870
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust
Date of previous inspection	11 October 2011
Telephone number	01995 602012

The Hummingbirds nursery was registered in 1997. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 8am until 3pm, Monday to Thursday and, 9am until 1pm on a Friday. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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