

Ducklings Pre-School Limited



Brookfield School, Brook Lane, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, SO31 7DU

Inspection date	16 October 2015
Previous inspection date	12 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Managers and staff provide a welcoming and homely environment where each child is respected and valued.
- Teaching is good. Staff provide children with a good range of activities which make the most of their interests and link to their next steps in learning. Children make good progress.
- Children are happy, settled, and behave well. They develop close relationships with their key persons. Staff tailor settling-in procedures to meet children's individual needs.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents are well informed about how well their children are developing and they appreciate the ideas given to them on how to support their children's learning at home.
- Managers maintain robust safeguarding procedures to ensure all children are safe from harm. Staff have relevant safeguarding training and complete regular risk assessments to ensure children remain safe and secure.
- The management team and staff have a dedicated drive to improve the outcomes for children. They use self-evaluation effectively to identify and develop ways to aid improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children are not taught how to communicate clearly or how to deepen their thinking.
- Staff do not always ensure that younger children can easily use resources to extend their play and learning

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that staff develop children's communication, language and thinking skills effectively
- ensure that younger children can readily use resources when engaged in their activities and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities throughout the pre-school and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with managers and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning and a range of other documentation, including procedures to safeguard children's welfare.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Eileen Chadwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management and staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of the legal requirements. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have secure knowledge of the procedures they would follow if they had concerns about a child or an issue with a member of staff's practice. Managers have good systems to monitor all aspects of provision, including the quality of teaching. Staff have clear targets when specific areas need strengthening. Staff receive support, coaching and guidance to enrich their practice. Children's progress is carefully assessed and monitored. Managers have extended this monitoring to different groups of children to ensure all children, including those in receipt of early education funding, benefit from good-quality provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a wide range of interesting activities both indoors and outdoors. Staff follow children's interests and further extend their learning by providing challenging experiences. Children enjoy role play, for example, when acting out tea parties, pretending to prepare food and making links to their own personal experiences. Staff give children plenty of time to play, to discover things and to create in the very well-equipped outdoor area. For example, children enjoy using paint when creating colourful paintings. Other activities develop their understanding of size and shape. Staff effectively promote children's speaking and language skills. Children enjoy books and have many good-quality opportunities to make marks and develop their early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff begin to form good relationships with parents and children right from the start. Children are well behaved because staff have clear, age-appropriate rules. Staff use lots of praise and encouragement and children develop good levels of confidence and esteem. Children's good health and physical development are fostered well. They love being outdoors and exploring the very good range of climbing and balancing equipment. Children learn the importance of eating sensibly; healthy fruit options are available at snack time, and children grow and cook fruit and vegetables from their pre-school garden.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. This includes children who need extra help, such as developing their speech and language. Staff help children to develop the skills they need in readiness for starting school, including their enthusiasm for learning early language and number skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY425494
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	823171
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Ducklings Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2011
Telephone number	07925372539

Ducklings Pre-school was registered in 2010. The pre-school operates from a separate building in the grounds of Brookfield Community College in the Locks Heath area of Hampshire. The pre-school is open weekdays from 8am to 6pm, during school term times. The pre-school employs five staff to work with the children, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. Two hold Early Years Teacher Status, and three staff are qualified to level 3. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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