

Ashleigh Nursery School

Marsh Lane, Longton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 5ZJ



Inspection date	26 October 2015
Previous inspection date	14 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team actively seek the views of children, parents and staff on an ongoing basis to effectively identify areas to develop and drive improvement. Excellent collaboration with other professionals and strong partnership working with parents means that children are provided with consistency in their care and learning.
- The enthusiastic and motivated staff have a deep understanding of the educational programme and are highly effective at planning for each child's interests and motivations. Staff have high expectations and use a range of excellent teaching strategies to help each child develop the skills and attitudes that promote their future learning.
- Staff provide parents and children with a warm and welcoming environment. They work closely with parents to provide highly effective care practices and routines to support children's physical and emotional well-being. Children develop a growing understanding of how to keep themselves healthy and safe. They thoroughly enjoy their time at nursery and settle in extremely well.
- Highly accurate assessment tools are used to plan children's next steps in learning and promptly identify any gaps in children's progress. All children are extremely well prepared for their move to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the programme of ongoing staff supervision and continuous professional development to ensure the high quality of teaching and learning is maintained.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the nursery manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision. She looked at a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures and the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at parental feedback documents and took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager.

Inspector

Cath Palsler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have completed safeguarding training and have a robust understanding of what to do should they have concerns regarding the welfare or safety of a child. The enthusiastic and motivated management team have high expectations of the staff and children. They support staff to provide an environment that offers each child interesting and challenging experiences. Comprehensive and accurate assessments help the management team to review the progress of different groups of children and identify any gaps in staff teaching. All the staff hold relevant childcare qualifications. The manager is keen to continue to build on the monitoring, supervision and professional development arrangements to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning continues to improve. All children are exceptionally well prepared for their move on to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know children well and plan the environment to provide all children with an exceptional range of activities and resources that offer interest and challenge. Staff are highly skilled at knowing when to let children develop their own play ideas, explore and experiment, and when to offer guidance. They use innovative teaching methods to help children become involved in their own learning. Staff use a range of highly effective strategies to help children to explore, experiment and solve problems. They ask pertinent questions so that children develop curiosity and an interest in how things work. Staff model language well, introduce new words and encourage older children to develop increasing confidence in expressing their own thoughts and ideas. They provide a narrative to children as they play, using repetition, rhythm and rhyming activities which contribute positively to children's communication development. Staff are highly effective at engaging and involving parents, including providing ideas for activities to continue children's learning at home. Parents speak highly of the information shared with them and with the progress their children make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are confident and self-assured. They demonstrate a thirst for learning and are eager to play with their peers and explore the environment freely. Children develop strong attachments to their key person and show a strong sense of belonging. They are emotionally well prepared for the next stage in their learning and show a growing confidence in their own abilities. Children are curious and keen to try new things. They are supported extremely well to respect each other and play cooperatively together. Children are beginning to understand how to make healthy choices as they enjoy a range of freshly prepared nutritious food. They enjoy using music and dance to move their bodies with energy and enthusiasm and use a range of resources to develop increasing confidence in their physical abilities.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including disabled children and those with special educational needs are active and independent learners who have an eager disposition towards learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	309217
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	855190
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	89
Name of provider	Icedean Ltd
Date of previous inspection	14 June 2011
Telephone number	01772 617 532

Ashleigh Nursery School was registered in 1990 and is privately owned. The nursery operates from the church hall adjacent to Longton Methodist Church. It employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least level 3, including one who holds Qualified Teacher Status, one who holds a qualification at level 6 and two who hold a qualification at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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