

Ducklings Pre-School

Caterham Valley Chapel, 84 Croydon Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6QD



Inspection date

2 February 2016

Previous inspection date

21 September 2010

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

- Children behave well. For example, they learn to take turns and share toys with one another. Staff are good role models for children to copy and adopt a friendly and respectful approach when dealing with both adults and children.
- Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff plan and provide an interesting range of activities and experiences for children. This has a positive impact on children's learning and helps them to make good progress.
- Children develop strong bonds with their key persons, and these help them to feel safe and secure. Staff value all children as individuals and meet their needs effectively.
- Relationships with parents are strong. Staff share information with them regularly to involve them in all aspects of their children's learning. This helps parents to support their children's learning at home.
- Staff create a welcoming and calm environment and all children settle quickly at their chosen learning activities. Children of all ages show good levels of independence and explore their surroundings with confidence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently encourage children to practise their early writing skills, for example, by supporting them to write their own names on their work.
- Staff do not always make the most of every opportunity to extend children's thinking skills and their learning even further during their play activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities available for children to consistently practise their early writing skills
- develop staff's knowledge about how to make the most of every opportunity to further promote children's communication and language skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager, and talked to the managers, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and relevant policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's observations, planning and assessment records.

Inspector

Ann Murray

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers are knowledgeable and oversee staff practice effectively. They ensure staff undertake regular assessments of the progress each child makes. Staff use their observations effectively to identify children's next steps for learning and share this information regularly with parents. This helps to fully involve parents in their children's learning. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are vigilant and prioritise keeping children safe. They have a good understanding of their responsibility to meet children's needs. Managers follow thorough recruitment processes to help ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff receive ongoing training and regular coaching sessions to help support them to constantly improve their practice. Managers are successful and committed to continually improving the provision. For example, they appraise practice and seek the views of parents, children and staff to inform the evaluation.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff have a good understanding of how to encourage and extend children's development. They know the children well and gather information from parents about children's interests to help them plan for children's learning. They use children's individual starting points and their assessments and provide many motivating activities. Children enjoy a range of opportunities to develop their creativity. For example, they excitedly dressed up as nurses in the role play area and used toy apparatus to tend to their imaginary patients. Children also learn about mathematical concepts, including simple calculations. For example, staff helped them to count farm animals and they investigated how many were left if two were taken away.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy in this nurturing environment. Staff effectively help children to understand how to develop healthy lifestyles. For example, they encourage them to make healthy food choices and provide them with daily opportunities for exercise. Staff also develop children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they carry out regular planned fire practices and talk to children about managing risks during their play. Staff use effective strategies to manage behaviour. They gently reinforce the boundaries to contribute to children's understanding of how to behave. This helps support children to respect others and to develop good self-esteem. For example, children cooperate well with their peers and happily involve others in their play.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their development and staff prepare them effectively for their future learning. Children learn to be independent, for example, by taking the lead in play experiences and pouring their own drinks at snack time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY337165
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	834852
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Miss Joanne Anderson and Mrs Deborah Hickson Partnership
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2010
Telephone number	01883 345 988

Ducklings Pre-school registered in 2005 and is located in Caterham, Surrey. The pre-school is open between 9.15am and 12.15pm from Monday to Friday during term time only. There are eight members of staff who work with the children. Of these, five hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3.

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