

Inspection date	25 April 2016
Previous inspection date	23 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The well-qualified staff team provides children with an excellent range of exciting and interesting activities to enhance and complement their learning at school. Children are extremely motivated and fully engaged in their play and learning, as their choices are respected and activities are planned accordingly.
- Children demonstrate strong emotional attachments with their key person. They are happy, well settled and display high levels of confidence, self-esteem and emotional security. Staff are sensitive and caring and ensure that children's physical and emotional needs are consistently met. This helps to promote children's personal development and welfare to the highest level.
- Staff teach children about the similarities and differences between people and communities exceptionally well. Children learn to understand and respect a wide range of different cultures, values and beliefs.
- Self-evaluation is outstanding. Staff consistently seek, evaluate and act on the views of parents, staff and children to drive continuous improvement. This has had a significantly positive impact on staff's ability to continue to improve the provision and achieve high-quality practice.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. There is an extensive range of information for parents to keep them fully informed about the services provided. Parents are invited into the setting to share their knowledge, skills and expertise with children. This helps to reinforce and strengthen links between home and the setting.

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 outstanding targeted programme of professional development to maintain the excellent practice of the highly skilled staff team.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in the indoor play area and the outdoor environment.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to her at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, children's learning records and risk assessments. She also viewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector discussed the arrangements for self-evaluation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from written feedback and questionnaires obtained by staff.

Inspector

Julie S Kelly

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager is extremely enthusiastic and effectively leads a highly motivated, dedicated and well-qualified staff team. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have an excellent understanding of what to do and who to contact in the event of a child protection concern. Staff place a high priority on children's safety which is central to their practice. There are rigorous security systems in place, such as the continuously manned reception area, access to the setting using key fobs and strict procedures for checking the identification of visitors. Furthermore, visitors sign in and out of the building and are asked to lock away mobile telephones. These arrangements help to ensure that children are kept safe, protected from unwanted visitors and cannot leave the premises unsupervised. The manager carries out regular supervision sessions and appraisals to support staff. A robust system is in place to match staff's training to their individual needs, specific interests and identified priorities of the setting. This contributes to improving the quality of experiences offered to children. The manager is continually looking at ways she can source additional training to continue to build on staff's excellent knowledge and skills to maintain the excellent practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff place high priority on helping children to develop their physical and communication and language skills and personal, social and emotional development. This helps children gain the skills, abilities and attitudes that provide them with an extremely firm foundation for their future learning. Staff work extremely well together to plan the main activities in consultation with teachers in the school. Children are also involved in the planning process and are regularly asked about the activities they enjoy most and how they would like to develop these. This helps staff to plan purposeful and challenging activities to fully support children's individual learning needs and interests. Children particularly enjoy creative activities. They use all materials available to them, showing skill and control, as they decorate hair bands. Children are excited and show pride in their achievements as they thread flowers onto the band, wrap ribbon around it and stick on feathers. They squeal with delight as they exclaim, 'I've chosen pink because it's my favourite colour' and 'I'm making this for my sister'. Outstanding partnership working with teachers in school helps children benefit from excellent continuity and consistency of care and learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is excellent. Older children are superb role models for younger children and demonstrate a mature understanding of their needs and feelings. For example, they understand that they have to play football in a designated area, so that younger children do not get hurt. Younger children learn from the extremely kind and caring behaviour of older children and their helpful attitude towards staff. Staff teach children about the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy an extensive range of healthy and nutritious snacks and freely access fresh air and exercise in the large outdoor play area. Staff talk to children about the importance of eating lots of fruit and vegetables to help their bodies grow. This helps to effectively promote children's physical well-being.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407613
Local authority	Oldham
Inspection number	850840
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 11
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	83
Name of provider	Squirrels Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2010
Telephone number	07926720111

Dobcross was registered in 2010. The setting opens from 7.30am to 9am and from 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. It also operates from 7.30am to 6pm during school holidays. There are three members of childcare staff employed, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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