

Dunky's Day Nursery (Runcorn)

2 Mather Avenue, Weston Point, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4JJ



Inspection date

9 June 2016

Previous inspection date

25 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- The management team is passionate and committed to providing a high-quality service. They promote reflective practice and have strong systems in place for self-evaluation. The manager seeks the views of staff, children and parents, and uses these to identify ongoing improvements.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Good systems are in place to share information about children's development and to promote learning at home.
- Children have formed close relationships with staff and this supports them to feel safe and secure. Staff know their key children well and respond sensitively to their individual needs. Staff value children's opinions and involve them in regular consultations.
- Staff plan a wide range of activities and learning experiences for children based on their interests and next steps in learning. Children have good opportunities to investigate, explore and learn about the natural world.
- Children's communication and language skills are supported well. Staff are knowledgeable and use a wide range of strategies to help develop children's emerging speaking and language skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff working in the toddler room do not always make the most of all opportunities to extend children's understanding of why it is important to consistently follow good hygiene routines.
- Staff working with younger children are less effective at maximising learning opportunities and extending young children's involvement in activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children in the toddler room to increase their understanding of the importance of following good hygiene practices to help them stay healthy
- make better use of opportunities to extend and challenge younger children's involvement in activities.

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 two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Nadine McCarthy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff attend regular training to help update their knowledge of safeguarding. They display a clear understanding of the nursery's child protection policies and how to report any concerns. Staff effectively promote children's safety and include them in completing risk assessments. Staff have good opportunities to attend training and enhance their qualifications. The manager has good systems in place to support staff and monitor performance. She reviews the quality of interactions through peer observations, and discusses improvements during supervision and appraisal meetings. The manager has recently reviewed the systems for tracking and assessments. She works closely with the local authority officer to develop and enhance the quality of practice. Parents are kept well informed about nursery activities and are encouraged to contribute to nursery life.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and display a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They complete regular observations of children's learning and share learning records with parents. Staff use their assessments to identify gaps in children's learning and to provide additional support where needed. The manager compiles information from assessments to help monitor children's progress. Younger children have opportunities to explore the environment and investigate sensory resources. Staff extend learning experiences outdoors and provide a good range of quality toys and equipment. Older children take part in investigations outdoors and discuss with staff different ways to make mud pies. Staff encourage children to share their ideas and test their predictions. They provide good opportunities for children to solve problems and play imaginatively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help to prepare children emotionally for their future move to school. They include children in discussions and provide practical activities that help to develop some of the key skills required. Children are confident and have good opportunities to be independent. They learn about the benefits of healthy eating and take part in weekly cookery sessions. Children have regular access to outdoors and good opportunities to be physically active. Staff respond flexibly and effectively to children's care needs. They have a good understanding of children's individual learning and progress, and work with other professionals to provide the right support when necessary. Staff promote positive behaviour and use praise effectively to support children's confidence and self-esteem.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are keen and motivated learners. They display a positive attitude to new experiences and a desire to learn. Overall, children make good progress in their learning and are well prepared for their eventual move to school. Staff support children's developing literacy skills and provide engaging opportunities for mark making. Children communicate confidently and share their opinions. They develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe in the nursery and the wider community.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY375157
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	1028845
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	93
Number of children on roll	115
Name of registered person	Dunkys Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903128
Date of previous inspection	25 July 2013
Telephone number	01928 563 199

Dunkey's Day Nursery (Runcorn) was re-registered in 2008. It is situated in the Weston Point area of Runcorn. The nursery employs 26 members of staff. Of these, one holds early years professional status and 22 staff hold appropriate qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 52 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.00am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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