

The Ducklings Day Nursery

45 Higher Road, LIVERPOOL, L25 0QG



Inspection date

14 June 2016

Previous inspection date

7 August 2012

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		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are very keen and eager to learn. Staff interact with children extremely well to skilfully promote their learning. They have comprehensive knowledge of each child and successfully use children's interests to provide fascinating learning opportunities.
- Excellent deployment of highly qualified staff, along with detailed and precise care planning, helps to provide every child with the specific support they need. This includes children who have English as an additional language and children with special educational needs or disability.
- Staff provide a highly stimulating environment that delights children and helps them to develop high levels of curiosity and concentration. Outdoors children are extremely confident and self-assured as they experiment with water, use their imaginations in a tent and practise their early writing skills in the imaginative area.
- Children form exceedingly close and trusting relationships with the committed and dedicated staff who in turn, respond to their every need. This helps children to be exceptionally happy and settled and gives them a strong base to explore.
- There is a very strong partnership with parents. The excellent flow of information about children's starting points, achievements and progress keeps parents informed at every level. Staff share ideas for activities that parents can do at home and parents complete their own observations. This contributes to children's all-round development.
- The manager provides an insightful programme of performance management that contributes significantly to the exceptionally strong quality of practice. Staff are dedicated in their ongoing pursuit of purposeful training and the benefits this brings to children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement planned actions to strengthen the already excellent planning and observation of children's learning and development.

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 a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. 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 and carers during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lynne Pope

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff continuously refresh their knowledge through in-house training and through safeguarding questions on the agenda at staff meetings. This helps to ensure that they have an excellent knowledge of the procedures to follow to protect a child's welfare. The manager and owners use highly rigorous self-evaluation systems to monitor and further improve the excellent provision for children. Robust checking of the provision is securely embedded and includes the views of staff. Staff are highly enthusiastic in their work and feel empowered to suggest and implement changes. For example, they have devised changes to how they plan and observe individual children and staff are currently implementing these new methods.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an excellent knowledge of children. Assessments are precise and checked closely by management. This includes assessments for different groups of children, such as girls and boys. This has helped to identify where learning in mathematics was not as strong as other areas and helped staff to ensure that mathematics is now very strong. Staff promote children's communication and thinking skills exceptionally well. For example, they make excellent use of skilful questioning to help children form opinions, describe their experiences and express themselves. Pre-school children join in with songs and rhymes that incorporate a bear and bags of resources. These help to ignite children's interest in letters and sounds. Babies explore their playroom with great interest. They play in the sand tray while staff support non-walkers to stand. Colourful lights gain their interest and children have great fun in the ball pool.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are supported to attend to their own personal needs and they learn very good independence skills. At lunchtime they help to set the table, making sure they have the correct number of places. Discussion about the different foods helps children to learn about what is good for them. Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping them to understand how to manage their own behaviour. Children quickly understand how to manage their own safety, reminding visitors to be careful on the slippery floor. Excellent support from key persons during times of transition helps children to move from one room to another very smoothly. Staff work extremely closely with teachers in schools to ensure that transitions are smooth. Uniforms are provided for children to use in imaginative play and photos of teachers and the school are made into books. Children look at them and discuss what it will be like when they move.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress. Younger children are assured in all aspects of their play and learning. They are keen to take a leading role and tackle new challenges with confidence and skill. Older children develop excellent communication skills. They learn to share, take turns and value others, quickly adopting a culture of tolerance and respect. This helps to prepare children very well for their next stages in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443238
Local authority	Knowsley
Inspection number	1042042
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	61
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	Ducklings Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527362
Date of previous inspection	7 August 2012
Telephone number	01514862144

The Ducklings Day Nursery was registered in 2012. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. One member of staff has early years professional status and the owner has early years professional status and qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs or disability and children who speak English as an additional language.

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