

# Ducklings Childcare

41a School Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 8AU



## Inspection date

Previous inspection date

1 September 2016

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 achieve well during their time in the nursery. They develop useful skills to support their own learning. For example, children learn to listen carefully to new stories, join in with repeated rhymes and phrases and make up their own ideas.
- The manager sets high expectations and a purposeful direction for future improvements to the quality of provision. She leads an increasingly effective staff team that is ambitious for the children's happiness and success.
- Relationships with parents are very positive and they are well informed about their children's learning. They are very appreciative of the warm and caring environment the nursery provides.
- Staff plan imaginative and stimulating activities to engage and motivate children. Activities are matched carefully to children's interests. For example, children enjoy measuring their toys and their friends with long strips of paper.
- Children are well behaved. They learn to cooperate and play and learn together well. Older children enjoy helping younger ones in their games.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff's professional development is not yet sharply focused on raising the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.
- Staff do not always give children time to think for themselves and fully express their own ideas and understanding.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen procedures for staff's professional development and focus more sharply on developing and applying an expert knowledge of teaching
- strengthen questioning techniques to encourage children to think deeply and express their reasoning and understanding.

### 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. He looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

### Inspector

Andrew Clark

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has created a staff team that is clear about its roles and shares the drive for improvement. The manager gathers the views of staff, parents and children to meet their needs and plan for future improvements. For example, parents have helped to organise special mother's and fathers' day events with the children. Children's views have contributed to the design of the outdoor classroom and other play areas. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are all well trained in child protection and first aid. They are vigilant and apply their knowledge to create a secure and stimulating learning environment.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make good use of information from parents to accurately assess children's starting points and plan activities which reflect their interests. Staff work closely with other education and health professionals to support children who have special educational needs or disability. Staff help all groups of children to attempt new experiences and to try hard in their play and learning. For example, children successfully work with a visiting artist to make a large felt tree and create banners and flags. Staff help children to develop their counting and other mathematical skills. For example, children count out scoops of sand to fill their trucks during their sand play. Staff support all children to develop their early reading and writing skills well.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and content. Their social skills are strongly developed. For example, they tidy promptly and efficiently by sharing tasks and supporting each other. Staff help children develop confidence and independence. For example, children choose many activities for themselves and devise their own games and activities. Children contribute to the development of daily rules and routines and follow them carefully. Children are well behaved and kind to each other. They feel valued. Staff promote children's knowledge and appreciation of healthy lifestyles strongly. Children wash and dry their hands carefully while singing a handwashing song together. Children competently serve themselves at snack and lunchtimes.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their individual starting points. They leave the nursery well prepared for their future learning, including starting school. Staff identify any gaps in children's achievement and take prompt steps to address them. Children's communication skills are developed well. They listen and follow stories with great interest and concentration. Older children write simple sentences, such as I am going to big school, with little help. Children count and order objects and identify them by shape and colour. They have many opportunities to improve their physical skills, such as learning to grip small objects, climbing and riding on wheeled toys.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY488498
<b>Local authority</b>	Kirklees
<b>Inspection number</b>	1015878
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	25
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	40
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Lisa Jane Hannington
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP909776
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	01484 547741

Ducklings Childcare was registered in 2015. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one at level 6 and one with early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 6am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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