

Central Link Children's Centre Nursery

31 Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB



Inspection date

12 October 2016

Previous inspection date

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

- The manager and staff provide children with a varied range of interesting and challenging activities. Children are motivated and engaged in their learning. They choose what they want to play with and are encouraged to explore and use their own ideas to extend their learning. All children make good progress from their initial starting points.
- Staff praise children for their efforts and achievements and successfully support them to manage their own feelings and behaviour. Children are reminded of the nursery rules and are encouraged to share toys, take turns and respect one another.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents are fully involved in their children's learning and regularly receive updates about their child's progress through daily diaries and discussions with the staff team. Parents are provided with ideas for activities that support children's continued learning at home.
- The manager has an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision and is committed to driving further improvement. The views of staff, parents and children are sought and acted upon to enhance the quality of the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children's individual progress is tracked effectively. However, methods to monitor the progress of different groups of children are still in their infancy.
- Staff do not always gather detailed information about what children already know and what they can do when they first start at the nursery.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to strengthen processes for monitoring children's progress, in particular to get an overview of progress relating to different groups of children
- find out more from parents when children first start at the nursery, in order to support the planning process from the outset.

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 looked at relevant documentation, including the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff are well qualified and are committed to providing good quality care and experiences for children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff seek opportunities to improve their skills. For instance, they attend training regularly, which has a positive impact on children's learning and development. The manager frequently observes staff to help them develop their practice even further. She routinely checks the quality of staff's work through purposeful supervision meetings and provides relevant guidance and coaching to support them. Parents speak highly of the staff and the care and attention their children receive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are cared for in a stimulating environment. Outside play is highly valued, supporting children who prefer an outdoor learning environment. Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff naturally join in with children's play, talking with them and asking them questions that develop their thinking and language skills. Children enjoy filling containers with water and sand and staff sensitively introduce mathematical concepts, such as empty and full. Staff support children to make marks using a variety of tools. They demonstrate how to draw straight and wiggly lines and children copy and have a go themselves, developing their confidence. Children happily join in with the words and actions to their favourite songs. Children are excited about their learning and demonstrate high levels of concentration and motivation.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and confident in the nursery. They quickly form good relationships with their key person and other members of staff, who are very caring and nurture children's emotional well-being. Staff are deployed appropriately and comprehensive documentation is completed, including risk assessments and accident records which are analysed by management. This helps to ensure that children play in a safe and secure environment. Generally, partnerships with parents and other agencies are strong and provide a consistent approach to meeting children's needs. Staff support children's emerging understanding of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle that involves physical exercise and a healthy diet. Children play outside regularly using a variety of equipment, including wheeled toys to promote their developing physical skills and confidence.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are provided with daily opportunities, across all areas of learning and eagerly explore the good range of resources available. They are encouraged to take responsibility for small tasks, such as serving themselves at mealtimes and putting on their coats for outdoor play. Overall, they acquire the skills and knowledge that prepare them well for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY482713
Local authority	St. Helens
Inspection number	997429
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 2
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	6
Name of registered person	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP526923
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01744 673444

Central Link Children's Centre Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery opens Monday to Wednesday, term time only. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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