

Clowns Childrens Centre

Cinder Bank, Ironville, Derbyshire, NG16 5NN



Inspection date

5 July 2017

Previous inspection date

15 May 2015

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

- Staff have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They regularly observe children and assess their progress. This helps staff to plan for the next steps in children's learning and development effectively.
- Staff work effectively with parents and other early years professionals, to ensure that children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive the additional support that they need to make good progress.
- The well-considered outdoor learning environment and routine provide children, particularly those who prefer to learn outside, with very good experiences in all areas of their learning.
- The management team monitors the educational programme very well, ensuring the experiences provided accurately reflect children's interests and stage of development.
- Strong partnerships with local schools help staff support children's emotional well-being and provide continuity in their learning.
- The management team demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement and to working towards achieving excellence.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Strategies to engage parents in their children's learning are not highly successful. Staff do not encourage parents enough to share detailed information about children's achievements at home to inform planning. In addition, they do not always share with parents how they can support their children's learning at home.
- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for the most able children to think about how to do things and test out their ideas through trial and error.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support parents further to share information about children's capabilities and achievements, and provide parents with more information about how they can support their children's learning at home
- provide most-able children with greater opportunities think about how to solve problems and identify possible solutions through trial and error.

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 spoke to the staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery management team. She looked at relevant documentation, the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tracy Hopkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff and management know the procedure to follow if there are concerns about a child's welfare. This helps to protect children from harm in the nursery and elsewhere. Robust recruitment arrangements help to ensure the suitability of those working with children. The management team has clear expectations of staff. It observes and monitors the quality of teaching regularly and completes staff reviews to help identify further improvements and maintain children's good outcomes in learning. Staff have continually developed their teaching and improved what they plan for children's learning. For example, staff have attended Makaton training to help improve the way that they communicate with some of the non-verbal children in nursery. Managers and staff check the progress of each child. When identifying gaps in children's learning, they provide well-targeted support to help them catch up. Interventions are planned as a team and staff in the nursery are particularly skilled in supporting children's communication and language development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children's abilities and whether they need to correct, repeat or extend children's language. Staff teach children how to listen to the sounds of words and how to use different words in sentences. Children act out stories and rhymes to improve their understanding. Additional funding is used effectively to help support good outcomes for children. Younger children enjoy sensory experiences. For example, they explore shredded paper as they search for hidden dinosaurs and make various prints using their hands in paint. Older children learn about living things, such as birds that access the garden and the different insects that live there.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are settled and happy, developing secure emotional attachments. They behave well and are emotionally well prepared for their next stage in learning. Children's care needs are met very well. They rest and sleep as they need to and staff are caring and sensitive to their individual needs. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals and staff have a secure knowledge of children's individual dietary needs and preferences. Children's awareness of foods that are good for them, is extended through cooking activities and growing different fruit and vegetables in the nursery garden. They are actively involved in watering the plants and explore the herbs they grow in their imaginary play in the outside play kitchen. Staff carry out regular checks on the environment to enable children to engage in activities safely. Children learn about keeping themselves safe, for example, they gain a good awareness of how to carry and hold scissors safely.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are motivated, lively and determined. Older children responsibly carry out small tasks. Young children learn about the natural world as they observe spiders with interest. Children demonstrate confidence as they approach visitors to ask what they are doing. Children make expected levels of progress and develop the skills they need in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY283274
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1091943
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Clowns Children's Centre (Ironville) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP908976
Date of previous inspection	15 May 2015
Telephone number	01773 540050

Clowns Childrens Centre registered in 2004. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, six at level 3 and one is unqualified. The nursery opens from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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