

Conkers Day Nursery

Dewhurst Road, Langho, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB6 8AF



Inspection date	12 March 2018
Previous inspection date	7 August 2014

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 work closely with parents through the effective key-person system. They know the children well and share details about routines with parents, to ensure that children's physical and emotional needs are fully met.
- Staff continuously observe the children. They use the information well to check children's individual learning needs and identify their next steps in learning. Children are making good progress from their individual starting points.
- Staff praise children for sharing, good behaviour, and trying out tasks or activities. Children show pride when praised and work confidently individually and in small groups.
- Staff encourage children's self-help skills, for example, by using stickers and pictures of characters and other items that they know children like and enjoy.
- Managers use self-evaluation and feedback from parents well to identify areas of effective practice and to make changes where outcomes are not as expected.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although senior staff carry out robust risk assessments, junior members of staff are not involved. Therefore, they lack competence in identifying and managing potential risks.
- Practitioners do not consistently link children's individual progress plans to the wider curriculum to improve teaching opportunities and enhance learning outcomes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff to carry out risk assessments of activities, to help them identify and manage everyday hazards
- build on the existing good standard of teaching by developing the planning for each nursery unit to establish a clearer link between children's individual assessment and planning to the action plans for the whole nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities to assess the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to managers, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector met with several parents to establish their views on the quality of provision.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a planned activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and a deputy manager, where she checked policies and procedures, including suitability of staff based on their qualification documents and suitability checks.

Inspector

Mary Hacking

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Senior staff are clear about safeguarding procedures, including safer recruitment, which helps to ensure that the nursery is safe and secure, and that staff are suitable to work with children. Parents know who to go to for information, or to discuss concerns. Managers share information and encourage feedback from parents and children in a variety of ways. They use feedback to help bring about improvements in children's learning experiences. The manager and deputies support staff to improve their practice. The manager collects and reviews data about children's progress, to identify any gaps in their learning. She supports the team to plan and deliver learning opportunities which address these gaps. The manager has made positive links with the local authority, which helps her to constantly improve the quality of provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Practitioners are highly qualified. They have a good understanding of the early years foundation stage, and know their key children well. Assessment records show that children's progress is good. Staff offer a wide range of activities and resources that children are keen to join in. For example, children work as a team during an activity with sand, to construct a model building for the toy dinosaurs to sleep in. Other children enjoy reading stories or working on the computer with their key person. Staff plan a variety of challenging experiences within the toddler and pre-school unit rooms. For example, they use numbered plant pots and dice to develop mathematics, and make paper Easter eggs to help children recognise colours and match shapes. Staff listen carefully to what children have to say and give them time to respond to questions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The nursery environment is secure, stimulating and very inviting. Children are keen to join in activities and are confident to move around each room within their own unit. Their social skills are developing well and they work together on construction, sand, play dough and mathematical activities, demonstrating how they can work independently and in a team. Behaviour is good. Children sit quietly at mealtimes whilst waiting for their food. They chat to each other and to staff whilst enjoying outdoor play. Children develop their physical skills, as they try out equipment safely and negotiate obstacles in the well-resourced outdoor area. Staff encourage children to develop their self-help skills. For example, they encourage them to pour their own milk and select a choice of snack. Staff offer simple rewards, such as stickers, for children learning to use the toilet.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are working comfortably within the expected development range for their age. They know the routine and follow simple instructions. Children socialise well with each other and adults in the setting. They recognise simple numbers and sounds. Children are developing many skills which prepare them for their future learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY241094
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1104004
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 - 4
Total number of places	74
Number of children on roll	112
Name of registered person	Home from Home Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP520870
Date of previous inspection	7 August 2014
Telephone number	01254 240 059

Conkers Day Nursery registered in 2002. It is situated in the Langho area of Blackburn and is managed by a limited company. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 19 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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