

The Apple Tree Private Day Nursery @ Victoria Brook

Brook Street, Oldham, OL9 0HW



Inspection date	18 April 2018
Previous inspection date	9 June 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

- The key-person system is robust. Staff know children well and use this knowledge to effectively support their emotional and physical well-being. Staff are good role models and provide children with clear behavioural expectations. Children behave well and show care and affection towards one another.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn, develop and thrive through purposeful learning opportunities. They plan a wide range of stimulating activities that is well matched to children's current stages of development and these maintains their interest.
- Parents are kept fully informed about their children's learning and development. Staff provide daily feedback summaries and special learning tasks are sent home to fully complement learning from the nursery.
- The well-qualified and experienced management team is committed to delivering the best of outcomes to children, staff and families. The management team has a strong grasp on the quality of the nursery and show a good capacity to drive improvements forward.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not consistently planning highly challenging activities, precisely linked to children's next steps to support all children to make rapid progress in their learning.
- Current systems to continuously improve staff's practice are not yet leading to exemplary teaching and learning indoors and outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance processes to track and monitor the progress of different groups of children more precisely in order to swiftly narrow any gaps in their learning and development
- refine systems to monitor staff's practice to ensure that the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors is raised to an outstanding level.

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 selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.

Inspector

Alexandra Chiorando

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of how to protect children from harm and understand the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Risk assessments are effective and robust systems are in place to ensure that the nursery is safe and secure. Staff supervise children with great vigilance and are effectively deployed to meet the needs of the children. The manager provides good support to staff, often working alongside them to extend their professional practice. However, opportunities to provide targeted and precise support to staff, to help them raise their teaching to an outstanding level, has not been thoroughly implemented and explored by the management team. Staff attend one-to-one supervision meetings and meet with the manager on an annual basis. Challenging professional development targets are agreed and monitored.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and have a good understanding of how to plan enjoyable and interesting learning opportunities for children. However, staff have not considered further ways to plan more challenging and innovative learning experiences to help children make rapid progress. Overall, assessment is good. Intervention is quickly sourced and the manager checks that any gaps in children's learning are closing. Children demonstrate sustained interest in a wide range of activities. They thoroughly enjoy using boxes to represent rockets while acting out a story about going to the moon. Babies squeal with delight as staff join in with their play by pouring water over toy animals in a water tray. They relish opportunities to explore their senses through musical instruments. Staff help children to develop their mathematical skills as they use numbers to count out cakes while singing a traditional rhyme with toddlers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and settled in the nursery. Staff help children to learn to keep themselves safe from an early age. Older children show an awareness of safety as they handle scissors. Babies eagerly use different tools as they experiment with dough. Children learn about hygiene when encouraged to wash their hands and wipe their own noses. Older children benefit from the opportunities to be physically active outdoors. They run around until they are out of breath and enjoy relaxing on the swings together. Children look to staff for comfort and reassurance, and enjoy receiving cuddles and praise. Their knowledge is enriched as they learn about space, astronauts and rockets.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated to learn and gain many skills that prepare them successfully for when they move on to school. They develop good social skills and enjoy involving friends in their play. They persevere and work together to thread cereal hoops onto pipe cleaners. Children develop an interest in literacy. They enjoy looking at books and begin to make marks to represent objects and words. Children are confident and curious when they meet new people, and they are eager to take on new challenges during their play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467490
Local authority	Oldham
Inspection number	1095466
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	37
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	The Apple Tree Private Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP904139
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2015
Telephone number	01616204842

The Apple Tree Private Day Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualification at level 2 or above. One staff member is unqualified. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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