

Little Ducklings Pre-School

Hangleton Community Centre, Harmsworth Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8BW



Inspection date

2 July 2018

Previous inspection date

4 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Although the manager and staff have reviewed some aspects of their safeguarding knowledge and updated the policies and procedures, not all staff have a secure understanding of how to protect children who may be at risk from extreme behaviours or views.
- Staff do not consistently use their assessments of children's development to ensure they have an accurate knowledge of children's needs and their next steps in learning. Not all children make the progress of which they are capable.
- The quality of teaching is variable. Staff do not always support and extend children's communication and language development effectively. This includes children who speak English as an additional language.
- Children are not provided with many opportunities during child-initiated play to help support their early writing skills.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and settled. They have positive relationships with staff. They help themselves to the resources set out for them and happily explore indoors and outside.
- Staff supervise children as they play and during routines to ensure that they are safe. They are aware of children's dietary requirements and encourage them to eat well.
- Staff work well with parents to keep them informed about their children's day. Parents speak highly about the care their children receive.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure all staff use the information gained through training to improve their knowledge of the 'Prevent' duty and wider safeguarding issues 	02/08/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improve the assessment procedures to ensure staff use the information gained from observations to accurately identify children's levels of achievement and next steps in learning. 	02/08/2018

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

- provide staff with highly tailored individual support to deliver consistently effective teaching to support children's communication and language development
- further develop teaching strategies to support children's early writing skills during child-initiated play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed how staff-to-child ratios are met. She also observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at samples of children's records. She also looked at evidence of the suitability of staff working with the children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager and discussed children's play and learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of other documentation, including risk assessments and the safeguarding policy and procedures.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff know what to do if there are any concerns about a child's welfare or a member of staff, including management. Following an ongoing review of safeguarding procedures, the management team knows the procedures to follow if there is an allegation against a member of staff. Overall, the management team and staff have an appropriate awareness of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. However, some staff are less secure on their understanding of wider safeguarding issues relating to the 'Prevent' duty. The management team works closely with committee members to ensure that staff working with children are suitable to do so. The robust recruitment and vetting procedures, monitoring of staff and supervision meetings contribute to this. Staff complete risk assessments to help ensure a safe environment. They respond appropriately to any accidents and report these to parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Since the last inspection, the team has reviewed its planning and assessment procedures. Staff are becoming familiar with the newly implemented process. They complete observations, including the required progress check at age two, and share children's progress with parents. However, staff do not always accurately analyse the information gained from observations to have a secure understanding of children's precise learning needs. Children enjoy exploring resources, such as play figures surrounded by ice. They use their imagination well as they pretend to sell ice creams in the playhouse and discover small creatures outdoors. Overall, staff support children as they play. However, they miss opportunities to increase children's language skills and enhance children's thoughts and ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

New children are helped to settle and key persons are kind and attentive to them. They offer reassurance as necessary. Staff help children to behave well and take turns during their play. They share information with other professionals involved in children's lives. Staff help children to develop good hygiene routines. However, weaknesses in teaching have some negative impact on children's personal development. Children have regular opportunities to engage in physical play, such as riding wheeled toys outdoors. Staff remind children about how to keep themselves safe during routines and play, such as not running indoors.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Overall, children are gaining some skills that they need for school. Older children attend to their own personal needs and younger children listen attentively to stories. They know how to join in the registration sessions and respond when their name is called to join in with activities. Children recognise colours and count each other during the day. However, they do not have many opportunities to practise writing for a purpose during their play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130750
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	1139740
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Little Ducklings Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP517676
Date of previous inspection	4 June 2015
Telephone number	01273 248532

Little Ducklings Pre-School registered in 1999. It operates from Hangleton Community Centre in Hove, East Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.15am to 3.15pm, during term time only. It employs seven members of staff. Of these, three hold early years qualifications at level 3 and three hold level 2. The pre-school is in receipt of early education funding for children aged two, three and four years.

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