

Inspection date	21 August 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The manager is well qualified and ambitious. She evaluates the nursery taking into account the views of parents and staff. She is able to identify and address areas for improvement.
- Staff have developed positive and trusting relationships between themselves, the children and their families. This supports children's social and emotional development.
- Staff join in with children's play. They give them time to answer their questions, which supports the children's thinking.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff use age-appropriate behaviour management strategies to reinforce positive behaviour.
- Parent partnerships are extremely effective. Parents take part in a variety of workshops to help them to support their children's learning and development at home, for example 'living healthy lifestyles'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently consider the planning of activities for the outdoor environment, particularly for those who learn best outdoors.
- Staff do not consistently encourage children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the planning of activities in the outdoor environment to provide opportunities for children to build on their learning and development, particularly for those who learn best outdoors
- increase the opportunities available for children to consistently practise their early writing skills.

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 held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Paula Graves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Children play in a safe and secure environment. The manager regularly conducts effective risk assessments and fire safety checks. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure appropriate supervision of children. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an extensive knowledge of safeguarding policies and procedures. They know whom to report to should they have concerns about a child and their welfare. The manager follows effective recruitment, vetting and induction procedures for new staff. She regularly updates checks of existing staff to ensure they remain suitable. The manager monitors staff performance regularly. She links weaknesses in practice to professional development opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff complete accurate assessments of children's learning and progress. They record a range of observations and plan activities that support children to achieve the next steps in their learning. Staff develop babies' physical skills as they encourage them to climb the ladder of the slide. The children follow their cues as staff say 'ready, steady, go!' before they slide down. Younger children use all of their senses to explore ice cubes with toy animals frozen inside. Staff develop children's language skills. For example, they use language such as 'bash', 'bang' and 'cold' as they encourage the children to break the ice. Children use hammers to release the animals inside, helping to develop their physical skills. Older children are encouraged to develop their mathematical skills. For example, staff encourage them to match number and quantity. They play games with them that involve selecting a number of ladybirds to match corresponding numbers displayed on a leaf.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children benefit from healthy meals and snacks, such as filled wraps and fruit. Staff ensure they cater for children's dietary requirements. Children are taught about the benefits of oral health. For example, one child says he will get cavities if he eats too many sweets. Staff encourage children to use their manners when the nursery chef serves them their dessert. Flexible settling-in sessions are used well by the staff to help children and parents feel comfortable and relaxed. Staff support children's emotional well-being and independence as they move between rooms in the nursery and on to other settings, such as school. Children have regular access to the outdoor space. They develop their physical skills as they ride around the garden area on bicycles. Children play cooperatively together. For example, they take turns to climb up the ladder and slide down the slide.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. This includes children for whom the nursery receives funding and children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children have a good range of skills to support them with the next steps in their learning and in readiness for school. For example, they follow simple instructions to put away aprons they have used. Children are confident and eager to join in with play. Additionally, they use mathematical language such as 'heavy' when carrying containers

of water in the garden.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY537219
Local authority	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Inspection number	10060151
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	112
Number of children on roll	108
Name of registered person	Playtots Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP537217
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0151 289 7632

Playtots registered in 2016. The nursery employs 25 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold qualifications at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 5, 11 hold qualifications at level 3, six hold qualifications at level 2, and three staff are unqualified and are working towards gaining childcare qualifications. The nursery also employs a caretaker and a qualified chef. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week during the Christmas period. Sessions are from 8am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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