

The Co-operative Childcare Watford Junction



Watford Junction Station, Station Road, WATFORD WD17 1AB

Inspection date	18 October 2018
Previous inspection date	13 August 2015

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

- Staff have developed a stimulating indoor environment which provides rich opportunities for children to play, learn and make good progress. Children have access to a wide range of resources which captures their interest and curiosity, and sparks their investigative skills. For example, babies are fascinated as they explore the different fruit and vegetables they find in the home corner.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents value the regular feedback they receive about their child's learning and recognise the progress that children make while at the nursery. They say, 'There is always something new for children to discover'.
- Staff know the children in their care very well. They use their observations of children's play effectively to plan activities that engage all children in learning and help them to make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff care for children in a sensitive and responsive way. They recognise and celebrate their achievements and praise children for the new skills that they learn. This supports children to feel confident and to develop high self-esteem through a sense of accomplishment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff's professional development is not precisely focused on developing an expert knowledge of teaching and learning.
- Although staff support children to be active and energetic in the garden, they do not make really rich use of the outdoor environment to build on the learning experiences for children who prefer to play outside.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance professional development opportunities to help raise the quality of the staff's teaching to an even higher level
- make better use of the outdoor environment to support the continuing good progress of children who prefer to play and learn outside.

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 joint observations with the manager of the nursery.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion during the inspection.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with leaders, staff and children.

Inspector
Kelly Brooker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager and staff team work very effectively together. They are proud of their nursery, have high expectations and are focused on continual improvement. The manager monitors the progress children make. She has clear systems in place to evaluate the provision and identify areas for development to ensure good outcomes for children. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and her deputy ensure that staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. All staff know the procedure to follow if they have any concerns about a child. There are effective recruitment and induction systems to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children and are well prepared for their role.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff skilfully join in with children's play to support and extend their learning. For example, staff clearly explain and model how to use a pipette in the water tray. Children laugh with surprise and great delight as they learn how to squirt water high in the air. Staff support children's language and literacy skills very well. They provide many opportunities throughout the day for children to listen to stories and sing songs, helping them to learn new words and extending their vocabulary. Children in the pre-school room learn about letters and the sounds that they make. They eagerly engage in drawing and mark-making activities that support their early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emotional needs extremely well. They respond to all children with great sensitivity and understanding. As a result, children feel valued, safe and secure in the nursery. Children confidently express their own needs, for example, they ask for a cuddle when they need it and tell adults when they are tired and would like to sleep. Staff support children to be independent and responsible in their play. For example, toddlers carefully collect jugs of water for making play dough and learn how to take care of plants. Staff help children understand about risks and how to keep themselves safe. They are involved in simple risk assessments, ticking off the daily jobs that need to be done. Children have good opportunities to be active and involved in energetic play. They enthusiastically take part in running races around the garden eagerly awaiting the adult's instruction of 'ready, steady, go'.

Outcomes for children are good

Children display high levels of concentration and attention as they engage in the range of enjoyable experiences on offer. They are purposeful in their play and have an eager attitude towards learning. They display good physical skills as they squeeze paint from bottles, thread pasta onto pipe cleaners and ride balance bicycles. Children demonstrate very good behaviour and get along well together. They are friendly and cooperative, they listen well to adults and know how to share and take turns fairly. All children make good progress from their starting points and are well prepared for their next stage in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130628
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10060262
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	Buffer Bear Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900888
Date of previous inspection	13 August 2015
Telephone number	01923 207065

The Co-operative Childcare Watford Junction registered in 1994. The nursery employs 24 members of staff. Of these, 22 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 52 weeks of the year, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7am until 6.30pm.

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