

The Ducklings Day Nursery - Skelmersdale

Daniels Lane, Skelmersdale WN8 9NH



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| Inspection date | 9 January 2019 |
| Previous inspection date | Not applicable |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Outstanding | 1 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Not applicable | |
| Effectiveness of leadership and management | | Outstanding | 1 |
| Quality of teaching, learning and assessment | | Outstanding | 1 |
| Personal development, behaviour and welfare | | Outstanding | 1 |
| Outcomes for children | | Outstanding | 1 |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The exceptionally dedicated and skilled manager shares her vision for the nursery with the staff team. Together, in consultation with parents and children, they regularly use a variety of ways in which to carefully evaluate the quality of the nursery and precisely target future improvements. All staff are deeply committed to providing children and their families with early years experiences of the highest quality.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff have an excellent understanding of the unique ways in which individual children learn. They use their regular, robust and precise assessments, along with their deep knowledge of children's interests, to plan a wide range of highly stimulating and challenging experiences that superbly motivate children in their learning.
- The management team and staff carefully monitor the progress that individual and groups of children make. They successfully identify any developing gaps in children's learning and take swift and decisive action to ensure that all children receive the exact support they need to make excellent progress from the time they start at nursery.
- Staff provide an exceptionally warm and welcoming environment. Bespoke settling-in arrangements and robust partnership working with parents ensures that children settle quickly and are ready to learn from the outset. Parents are extremely well informed about their child's learning. For example, staff routinely share information about children's learning experiences along with helpful tips and ideas that enable parents to complement and support their child's learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement the innovative plans to provide even more sensory experiences and monitor the impact this has on younger children's already outstanding well-being and outcomes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside 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 provider and nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and also considered their views in the written statements provided.

Inspector

Denise Farrington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The deeply committed manager and highly skilled, qualified teachers act as excellent role models to the staff team. They work alongside staff on a daily basis providing ongoing skilled coaching, reflection and support. These frequent checks on staff performance, along with regular supervision sessions, has led to consistency in excellent practice across the nursery. The manager uses her knowledge to carefully plan future training. For example, recent training in the use of innovative strategies to support children's communication skills have been exceptionally well used to help to accelerate some children's learning and to positively impact on their progress and outcomes. Safeguarding is effective. The management team gives safeguarding their highest priority and all staff know how to report any concerns to the relevant authorities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff create a highly stimulating atmosphere where children are superbly supported to eagerly explore, investigate and be active. Babies delight in exploring a range of sensory experiences. They eagerly share their joy with each other as they explore ice, encouraging their friends to touch the ice. The manager recognises the contribution sensory activities have on young children's overall development. She plans to extend the use of the sensory room provision even further in the future. Staff talk to children as they play and skilfully introduce new words to extend their growing vocabularies. For example, babies as young as one year of age repeat the words staff use to describe objects. Older children are skilled communicators and thrive during activities that require them to solve problems and work collaboratively together. For example, when using cardboard boxes to make a space ship, children share their ideas on the best way to join the boxes together before trying out their ideas and deciding which works the best.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff meet the individual needs of children superbly. They are exceptionally focused on helping children to become highly independent from an early age. Staff are wonderful role models. They treat children with kindness and respect. Staff encourage positive behaviour and teach children important social skills. Staff provide a healthy and nutritious range of meals and snacks. They regularly host events, such as 'bake-off', to share healthy recipe ideas and skills with parents. Children delight in regular opportunities to play outdoors in the vibrant and well-resourced garden areas. Staff use a wide variety of innovative strategies to teach children about diversity and encourage them to recognise and celebrate the differences between themselves and others.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning and eventual move to school. They are confident and enthusiastic learners who become deeply enthralled in their self-chosen tasks. All children learn to count and recognise numbers. Younger children delight in sharing stories, while older children confidently link letters and the sounds that they make to help write simple words. All children eagerly try new experiences and from a very young age demonstrate the skills of highly effective learners.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY542383 |
| Local authority | Lancashire |
| Inspection number | 10089636 |
| 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 | 71 |
| Number of children on roll | 72 |
| Name of registered person | Ducklings Day Nurseries Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP527362 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |
| Telephone number | 01695 726539 |

The Ducklings Day Nursery - Skelmersdale was registered in 2016. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 are qualified at level 3 or above, including three who hold qualified teacher status. The nursery is open Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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