

Mulberry Bear Day Nursery

Walton Hall, Perry Building E (First Floor), Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK7 6AA



Inspection date	24 April 2019
Previous inspection date	2 May 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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

This provision is good

- The enthusiastic staff team is well led and managed. Staff provide a welcoming and homely environment for children and their parents.
- Accurate assessment of children's achievements helps staff to identify the next steps for learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Parents receive daily updates about their child's routine, activities and progress. In addition, children's key persons share progress reports at parent meetings.
- Effective procedures are in place to help keep children safe and secure. For example, children practise the emergency evacuation procedure and staff closely monitor children's arrival and collection times.
- Managers observe staff teaching practices and make suggestions to further support children's good learning experiences. Staff have many opportunities to build on their existing knowledge and skills.
- Managers and staff have a strong commitment to continuous improvement and they value the views of children and parents. Since the last inspection, staff have taken action to further improve outcomes for children.
- Children behave well and focus as they play and learn. They build their confidence and develop self-esteem. Staff help children to understand the importance of sharing, using good manners and being kind, and praise them for their achievements.
- Sometimes, staff do not make the most of their good relationships with parents to share ideas to help children build on their learning at home.
- Occasionally, staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend children's mathematical understanding, for example with shapes and measurement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider more ways to share ideas for parents to support children's learning at home
- increase the ways children learn about shapes and measure to enhance their mathematical awareness.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the gardens.
- The inspector held discussions with children, parents, committee members and staff.
- The inspector looked at observation files, monitoring systems and a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector
Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The managers work closely with the supportive committee to enhance children's nursery experiences. For example, they are currently working towards further developing the outdoor play area. The managers oversee the close tracking of children's progress and use this information to help identify where children may require further support to catch up in their learning. Managers help staff to reflect on their work and to develop their knowledge and skills. For example, staff have time to meet with them on a one-to-one basis. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children and know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. There are secure arrangements for staff recruitment, to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff plan interesting activities to capture the children's interests. For example, babies explore and use their senses to smell, feel and taste lemons and limes. Toddlers strengthen the muscles in their hands, for instance as they pull, roll and squeeze a slimy mixture. Staff use effective teaching skills across the nursery. For example, they model language well, ask open questions and make suggestions. This is apparent as the pre-school children pretend to go on a train ride. Staff encourage children to share ideas and talk about what they need for their journey. Staff provide good opportunities for children to practise writing for a purpose, such as train tickets. Staff sensitively encourage children to join in activities. For instance, they observe and stroke a snail, bearded dragon and snake.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop close relationships with staff, especially their key person, who is responsible for their care and education. Children learn to live healthily. They follow good hygiene routines and enjoy nutritious foods and exercise. Children develop good physical skills as they use a variety of apparatus and equipment. For example, babies use push-along toys to help them to walk, toddlers sit and steer tricycles, and pre-school children throw and catch balls. Young children develop an understanding of themselves and their families, and older children begin to find out about other people's beliefs. Staff teach children about personal safety, for example as they use challenging climbing apparatus and woodwork tools.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners and they make consistently good progress across the areas of learning. Children enjoy looking at books and listen attentively to stories. They learn to hold a pencil comfortably for writing and the more able children can write their names. Children develop independence, for example as they dress and undress. They establish special friendships and play well together. Children are well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141798
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	10084915
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	70
Name of registered person	Mulberry Bear Day Nursery and Pre-School
Registered person unique reference number	RP517365
Date of previous inspection	2 May 2018
Telephone number	01908 653 867

Mulberry Bear Day Nursery registered in 1988 and is based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The provision is open from 8am until 6pm Monday to Thursday, and from 8am until 5.30pm on Friday, for 50 weeks of the year. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. There are 16 members of staff. The manager holds early years professional status and all other staff hold qualifications between level 2 and level 3.

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