

Ducklings Limited

Langley House, Ellera y Roa, Middleton, Manchester M24 1NY



Inspection date	19 June 2019
Previous inspection date	16 April 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The manager does not monitor the quality of the provision well enough. A number of legal requirements are not met, and children's safety and welfare are compromised.
- The door leading to the adjoining house is not secure. This means when the house is occupied, it is possible for unchecked visitors to access the nursery.
- Risk assessment is not effective. For example, staff fail to identify a small gap in the perimeter fence. This means it is possible for children to leave the play area unsupervised.
- Staff do not keep an accurate record of which children are present throughout the day. This places children at risk in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- Completed records relating to medication do not include all the legally required detail.
- Staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding are not fully aware of the correct procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.
- Despite legally required ratios being maintained, there are times when staff struggle to give the younger and less able children the support they need to make good progress.
- Staff do not always plan and agree when to complete the required summary of each child's progress at age two in order to support partnership working with other professionals.
- The quality of teaching is not consistently good. At times staff have unrealistic expectations, particularly of the younger children in the pre-school room.

It has the following strengths

- Staff create a welcoming, caring environment that helps children to settle quickly.
- Children enjoy a varied range of activities and experiences that support their learning.
- Staff routinely update mandatory training, including paediatric first aid.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due date
take all reasonable steps to ensure that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised and to prevent authorised adults entering	05/07/2019
ensure staff always follow the risk assessment processes to keep children safe, including assessing risks posed by the climbing equipment and large nettles in the garden	05/07/2019
ensure staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding children fully understand and are able to implement appropriate procedures in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff	05/07/2019
keep a daily record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises, their hours of attendance and the names of each child's key person	05/07/2019
ensure the procedure for administering medication includes obtaining information about each child's health reason for needing it	05/07/2019
ensure staff are deployed effectively to meet the needs of the children	05/07/2019
agree with parents when will be the most useful time to provide a summary of their child's progress at age two, in order to support integrated working with other professionals	05/07/2019
ensure that teaching reflects the individual needs and interests of each child and provide planned purposeful and challenging activities that match their age and stage of development, to promote good progress in their learning and development.	30/08/2019

Inspection activities

- The inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process in receipt of a concern.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. The inspector jointly evaluated planned activities and discussed the impact on children's learning with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at convenient times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked the available evidence of the suitability of adults working in the nursery and looked at relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to and took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Vickie Halliwell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. Children's safety and well-being are compromised by weak risk assessment. Despite conducting a daily risk assessment of both the indoor and outdoor areas, staff fail to identify potential risks to children. For example, the door between the nursery and adjoining domestic property is not secured. This allows unauthorised persons access to the nursery premises. Staff fail to identify a gap in the perimeter fence, which means children could leave the outdoor play area. Additionally, staff do not do enough to remove or raise children's awareness of the risk from large nettles or ensure that large climbing equipment is securely fixed to the ground. On the day of the inspection, the manager responded quickly to concerns raised by the inspector. She demonstrated the capacity to make the required improvements, immediately putting steps in place to ensure children's safety. Attention to daily documentation is weak. Records of children's attendance are not always updated when children arrive. Staff are expected to record their own time of arrival. However, on the day of inspection the times recorded were not accurate. This means it is not always clear which children and staff are on the premises. Furthermore, while parental consent is obtained prior to the administration of medication, legally required details of the health reason for the medication are not. Staff are aware of possible indicators of abuse. They have a satisfactory knowledge of how to respond and report concerns to protect children, including implementing the setting's whistle-blowing procedures. However, while members of the management team are clear that they would take immediate action in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, they do not have a secure knowledge of the procedure to follow. They are very clear about the procedure to follow if they have concerns about a child. The management team regularly monitors and reviews staff practice. However, identified weaknesses in relation to the quality of teaching are not addressed quickly enough to promote good outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching is varied. Information from observation and assessment is not always used well enough to personalise the next steps in children's learning. This means staff sometimes have unrealistic expectations and encourage children to engage in planned activities which are not matched to their stage of development. For example, young children are encouraged to practise 'writing' before they have the required skills and dexterity to do so. Staff model language well, promote children's interest in books and provide children with some good opportunities to share their news and talk about their own interests. Long-term plans provide a broad educational programme, underpinned with topical themes that children enjoy. Regular visitors and outings are used very well to bring activities to life. For example, children enjoy visits from the ambulance service and the police, and walking through the woods to search for the 'Gruffalo'. At times staff struggle to fully meet the learning needs of the children. This is particularly evident during large-group activities which include a very mixed range of abilities in the pre-school room. In contrast, babies are well supported as they explore new textures. Staff know they must provide a summary of each child's progress at age two, but this is not always completed in time to support partnership working with other professionals.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Weaknesses identified in leadership and management compromise children's welfare. Despite this, children's personal development is well promoted. High priority is given to helping children achieve personal independence. Children are learning the importance of looking after themselves through washing, brushing their teeth and eating healthily. Children are encouraged to serve themselves at mealtimes and enjoy a freshly prepared casserole. All children benefit from daily opportunities to play and explore the well-resourced outdoor play areas. Staff manage unwanted behaviour quickly and effectively. They are positive role models who support children well as they learn to manage their own behaviour. During the inspection, parents spoke very highly of the staff team, the care provided and the range of activities on offer.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Despite weaknesses in organisation which impact on the quality of teaching and learning, children make some progress and are developing some of the key skills that they need for school. Children are learning the importance of socially acceptable behaviour and confidently remind one another of the 'golden rules'. Most older children sit and listen to stories, and they are able to recall favourite stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs'. Younger children routinely repeat words and sounds as they play. Staff use quieter times at the end of the day to offer additional support to children who speak English as an additional language. Children of all ages delight in regular opportunities to explore and experiment with a range of different textures, including paint, dough and natural materials.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY537956
Local authority	Rochdale
Inspection number	10112059
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Ducklings Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910109
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2018
Telephone number	01616530124

Ducklings Limited registered in 2016. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, one holds level 5, four hold level 3 and two hold level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am to 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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