

Inspection of Puddleducks Nursery

5 Chaucer Road, WORTHING, West Sussex BN11 4PB

Inspection date: 19 January 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settled. They have warm and caring relationships with staff. Children feel safe and benefit from frequent cuddles with their key person when they need reassurance.

Children behave well. They are friendly and welcoming. Children show confidence in expressing their views and thoughts. They talk enthusiastically to each other about the different animals on a farm. Staff skilfully build on this by providing activities that use children's interests to engage them further. For example, children create their own farms using model bricks. Children actively seek out their friends and invite them to join new games. They are kind, caring and help each other. Children enjoy working together. They create a 'dragon' out of large bricks and celebrate their achievement together. Children listen avidly when they are read to. Staff encourage children to discuss what is happening in the story. Children excitedly use their hands to measure whether their hair length matches 'Rapunzel's'.

Children make good progress in their development. For example, babies learn how to push buttons on favourite toys after staff model how they work. Children learn how to be independent through everyday actions, such as putting on their coats and shoes. They beam when they succeed at doing it by themselves. Children benefit from frequent praise and encouragement. This helps to develop their self-esteem.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The manager is passionate about her role. She plans a curriculum that is ambitious for all children and skilfully builds on what they already know.
- Staff and the manager have high expectations for what children can achieve. They work together to implement the curriculum and plan activities that are based on children's interests and learning needs. For example, younger children learn about money and shopping as they play 'shops' with staff.
- The manager places a strong emphasis on staff well-being. Staff feel valued and listened to by the management team. This creates a positive atmosphere.
- The manager has systems in place to discuss staff performance. However, she recognises that these discussions have been infrequent. This means that staff have not had regular and precise feedback to improve their practice further.
- Parents praise the staff for their caring and friendly approach. They speak highly of the communication between themselves and staff. Staff regularly provide feedback to parents about children's care, learning and development. For example, they share more detailed information about children's development through online journals. This is received very positively by parents.

- Children understand and follow the rules and routines in nursery. However, on occasion, staff do not fully support children's individual needs during routine transition periods, such as getting ready for lunch. This means that, at times, some children become disengaged and restless.
- Staff understand the importance of developing children's communication and language skills. Staff build on language skills from an early age. They encourage younger babies to communicate through sounds and gestures. Staff encourage older babies and toddlers to learn new vocabulary quickly, for example by frequently reading stories with them. Children in pre-school talk clearly and confidently. They excitedly invite the inspector to play with them. They eagerly talk about the 'big bad wolf' and say that 'it's time to run away' as they play with farm animals. Older children use a wide range of vocabulary as they play.
- The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) promptly ensures that strategies are in place to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff skilfully use these to support children's development. The SENCo works closely with outside agencies to ensure children make the best possible progress.
- Children learn how to keep themselves healthy. They know the importance of washing their hands frequently. Children help themselves to their water bottles throughout the day. They regularly play outside. Older children eagerly share their knowledge about when they should brush their teeth.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Those designated as safeguarding leads have a secure knowledge of how to keep children safe. They know how to make timely referrals to the local authority, as needed. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding and their roles and responsibilities. They know who to report concerns to within the nursery and are familiar with the whistle-blowing processes to follow. The management team has a strong knowledge of safe recruitment processes, including carrying out the appropriate checks when staff start at the nursery. This ensures all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager ensures that staff receive regular training to update their safeguarding knowledge. Staff work together to create a safe and secure environment.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- consider how to support children effectively during routine transitions to ensure that they do not become restless and disengaged
- develop systems for staff supervision meetings to ensure they happen more frequently and staff receive feedback to improve their performance further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY372004
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10208812
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 at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	131
Name of registered person	Puddleducks Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP528004
Telephone number	01903 609986
Date of previous inspection	24 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Puddleducks Nursery registered in 2008. It is located in Worthing, West Sussex. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 14 members of staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two hold qualifications at level 2. The area manager has early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Natasha Jarvis

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector took part in discussions with the manager and staff during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector observed and evaluated an activity together.
- Parents shared their views with the inspector.
- The inspector observed staff and children.
- Children interacted with the inspector throughout the day.

We carried out this inspection 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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