

# Inspection of Little Discoverers

92 Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 6BH

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Inspection date: 31 March 2022

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<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Good</b>
Personal development	<b>Good</b>
Leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is good**

Children are safe, happy and enjoy the time they spend at the nursery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parents are continuing to drop off and collect children at the main door. Children leave parents at the door confidently and are greeted by friendly, caring staff. Staff have high expectations of children, so children display high levels of independence in all that they do. For example, toddlers put on their own coats and attempt to zip them up, with some children succeeding. Pre-school children push themselves along on tricycles and use equipment safely and correctly. All children are familiar with the hygiene routines within the nursery. They wipe their nose and wash their hands afterwards.

Children are provided with opportunities to develop their small-muscle skills. For example, they use tweezers to post buttons into sponges and practise using scissors during creative activities. Consequently, children strengthen their hand muscles in preparation for developing their early writing skills. Toddlers enjoy using scoops to make ice creams and happily talk about the 'flavours' they have chosen, such as chocolate and strawberry. The setting is committed to promoting oral health throughout the nursery. This is reflected throughout activities and interactive displays. Pre-school children enjoy using toothbrushes and toothpaste to brush the dental resources on offer. They confidently talk about the food groups that are good and bad for your teeth.

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

- The manager is passionate about children receiving the best possible start in life. She has a clear vision of what she intends children to learn through the nursery's curriculum. Staff undertake regular assessments of children's abilities. They identify and plan for the next steps in children's learning. Overall, activities build on what children already know and can do. However, sometimes, activities do not offer sufficient challenge. For example, when pre-school children are matching shapes and numbers, only numbers one to 10 are available. Some children do this with ease and would benefit from being provided with numbers beyond ten.
- Staff report that they feel supported in their roles. They have access to online and local authority training to build on their professional development. Supervisions are held regularly and allow staff time to talk through any concerns they have and agree targets for the upcoming term. These include completing training, the most recent being safeguarding.
- Children are extremely well behaved. They display excellent manners and are respectful of one another. They play alongside each other, taking turns and sharing. Older children are good role models for younger children. Children use resources appropriately and understand how to use them safely. For example,

when using scissors, they know how to handle them with care.

- Parents provide fantastic feedback about the nursery. They feel well informed of their children's progress. They enjoy regular communication from staff and recently attended a 'high tea' event to celebrate Mother's Day. Parents are provided with ideas and activities to extend children's learning at home. The manager keeps parents informed of healthy choices for the packed lunches children bring each day.
- Communication and language are supported well throughout the nursery. Staff use books to introduce new vocabulary and extend children's understanding of the world. For example, when reading 'Handa's Surprise', the children talk about the various food, such as guava, pineapples, mango and avocado. Staff explain the cultures in Africa when children ask about the lady carrying the fruit basket on her head. Children understand that books have an author and an illustrator and ask about the blurb on the back of the book prior to reading it.
- Staff quickly identify where children might need additional support and put plans in place to help them to achieve. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals in order to ensure each child, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager has safe recruitment procedures in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. This includes an in-depth induction process and safeguarding training within the first month of employment. Staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse to be aware of regarding children and adults. They have good knowledge of how to report concerns and the appropriate agencies to notify should they need to. The premises are safe and secure. Staff carry out daily checks to identify any potential hazards. Staff hold paediatric first-aid qualifications and staff are confident dealing with any accidents or injuries.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

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

- strengthen the systems for monitoring the quality of education to ensure staff provide sufficient challenge through planned activities.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY560152
<b>Local authority</b>	Blackburn with Darwen
<b>Inspection number</b>	10190488
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	2 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	40
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	64
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Little Discoverers Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP560151
<b>Telephone number</b>	01254 697096
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Little Discoverers registered in 2018. The nursery operates from 8.15am until 3pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. The nursery employs nine members of staff. Of these, seven hold a relevant qualification at level 3, one holds a relevant level 2 qualification and one is unqualified. The nursery offers funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Kate Martin

## Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 setting.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of a small-group activity with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager. The inspector assessed the impact of the learning opportunities staff provide for children, including the quality of their interactions.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.

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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