

The Old Vicarage

32 Rutland Street, BLACKBURN, BB2 1UY



Inspection date	15 August 2017
Previous inspection date	21 January 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the 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 dedicated management team lead a highly motivated team of staff who know children very well and show a genuine interest in helping them achieve to their full potential.
- Self-evaluation is highly effective. The views of parents, children, staff and the wider community are actively sought and used to considerably enhance the experiences and opportunities on offer and raise outcomes for children. For example, they have developed a forest school in the local community.
- There is a strong focus on helping children to learn about staying safe. Staff encourage children to carry out risk assessments of the environment. This helps them become aware of, and respond to, any potential hazards.
- Partnerships with parents are extremely positive. The management team and staff have an impressive determination to support parents' involvement in the life of the setting and in their children's learning.
- Partnerships with other professionals are very strong. Staff are extremely proactive in ensuring that the correct procedures are swiftly put in place to support all children to make optimum progress from their starting points.
- Independence and self-care skills are promoted brilliantly. Children learn about the benefits of eating healthily and demonstrate their excellent independence skills as they help staff with tasks, such as setting the table, serving food and clearing away.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to drive forward the already high standards of teaching across the setting by further incisive evaluation of staff's continued professional development.

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 spoke to the staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation and checked evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Donna Birch

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. The setting is safe and secure. Recruitment and vetting procedures are extremely robust. Systems for observation, assessment and planning are used exceptionally well by staff. This supports all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, to make rapid progress from their starting points. The manager regularly monitors staffs' performance and supports them through effective supervision and targeted reviews. Additionally, staff are actively encouraged to continue their professional development and are supported to achieve high level early years qualifications. This means they are developing an expert knowledge of child development and teaching is consistently of a high standard.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The highly enthusiastic staff interact with children down at their eye level. Children have excellent imaginative, social and communication skills. For example, they quickly become engrossed in activities and share their ideas. Additionally, staff organise a wealth of resources, such as bricks, sand and straw, that bring children's thoughts and play to life. Staff make the most of these experiences to extend children's vocabulary and thinking. They ask them lots of questions and allow children sufficient time to think and respond. Staff help children develop their mathematical skills. They count out items and discuss concepts, such as more and less. Younger children develop their physical skills and critical-thinking skills as they push small cars along tubes and predict where they will appear. Babies enjoy participating in action songs and staff encourage them to repeat sounds and words.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely proactive in helping children gain an understanding of keeping themselves safe. For example, children competently follow procedures for safe handwashing practices and confidently talk about how they need to stop germs making them ill. Children take an active interest in nature and the world around them. Staff ignite their curiosities as they talk about the birds that are nesting in the bird house. Children demonstrate an appreciation for living things. For example, they know they need to pass by the tree quietly so they do not scare the birds. Staff are superb role models of behaviour. They value and celebrate children's achievements and contributions.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make excellent progress from their starting points. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those in receipt of the early years funding, are extremely well supported and make rapid progress within a short period of time. Children are exceptionally well prepared for school. They have a can-do attitude and are eager to join in and make valuable contributions to group discussions based on their own experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY391908
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	1110322
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	The Old Vicarage Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535191
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2013
Telephone number	01254677339

The Old Vicarage Nursery was registered in 2009. The setting employs 11 members of childcare staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications from levels 2 to 6. The setting opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The setting supports a number of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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