

The Old Fire Station Children's Nursery

The Old Fire Station, 69 Albion Street, BIRMINGHAM, B1 3EA



Inspection date	9 March 2018
Previous inspection date	10 May 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the 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 provider and the management team have worked hard to achieve their vision for the nursery. They provide good-quality care in a stimulating environment. They have developed a culture of reflective practice and include all staff in the self-evaluation process.
- Staff have high expectations for the children and provide them with interesting learning opportunities. They understand how children learn and support them effectively, according to their stage of development.
- Staff regularly observe children to assess their achievements. Managers use early intervention methods and ensure children receive the support they need to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children are confident and self-assured. They play well with other children and learn first-hand about other cultures and faiths in the highly inclusive nursery.
- Children learn to keep safe through experiences, such as frequent outings into the local community. They have many opportunities for exercise indoors and access suitable large play equipment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently teach children to use utensils at snack time when serving their own fruit or explain to them why they should not put fruit they have handled back onto the serving plate.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children to understand the reasons for the routine procedures they follow at snack time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoors activities, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. The inspector carried out joint observations of activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and the deputy manager of the nursery.
- The inspector reviewed a number of documents used for the efficient running of the nursery and discussed the self-evaluation process.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents, read written feedback from other parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Adelaide Griffith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider implements effective procedures to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Managers lead a strong team and provide effective support through systematic performance management. Staff regularly attend training and implement effective strategies to raise the quality of children's learning. Self-evaluation is robust. The managers have effectively addressed the recommendations from the last inspection to improve the outcomes for children's development. They track cohorts of children termly to ensure any gaps between different groups close quickly. Managers and staff provide regular workshops to support parents in understanding how their children learn best. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities to protect children from harm. They know the procedures for reporting any concerns they might have about any child in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff promote children's development well in all areas of learning. They provide enjoyable activities and join in enthusiastically with children's play. Staff plan well to meet each child's individual learning needs. They skilfully extend pre-school children's communication by repeating words back to them and by encouraging them to explain what they do. Staff in the baby room effectively help children to make connections between actions and words. They repeat words, such as 'sticky' and encourage children to explore sticky textures. Staff demonstrate how to examine and feel the consistency of mud and children copy what they see. Staff regularly assess children's progress and share these with parents. They invite parents to contribute ideas for their children's next steps in learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and learn to take turns and share resources while they play. Staff use their skills in behaviour management to create a calm atmosphere where children freely explore, play and learn. Pre-school children develop good personal skills and play well in small groups, independent of adults. They take responsibility to hand out cutlery and plates at lunchtime. Lunchtime is a social occasion when staff sit with children and encourage good interaction. Children learn to take care of themselves. For example, they wash hands with minimal assistance and become confident about crossing roads when they are away from the nursery on outings.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those in receipt of additional funding, make good progress in their learning and development. They have opportunities to learn through activities, such as role play and develop early skills in numeracy and literacy. Pre-school children work on simple calculations. They are active learners and develop well in preparation for the next stage in their learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	228975
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	1063789
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 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	Bucklemount Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP523042
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2013
Telephone number	0121 603 0003

The Old Fire Station Children's Nursery registered in 1997. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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