

The Duckling Nursery

Writtle Infant School, Writtle CM1 3HZ



Inspection date	19 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Children show good levels of perseverance and imagination as they play in the superb outdoor play area. They have fun and work together during activities, showing good cooperation.
- Excellent relationships are developed with other professionals that work with children. This helps to ensure that children are supported to make good progress relative to their starting points.
- Children enjoy a good range of physical play opportunities. They have fun climbing ladders and show very good coordination as they weave around obstacles in their path. This demonstrates children's good spatial awareness.
- The provider ensures that she regularly asks staff for their views about how the nursery could improve. Children are listened to and parental feedback is sought through discussion, a suggestion box and questionnaires. This helps to inform the provider's detailed plans for future improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use information from assessments as effectively as possible, to identify and plan precise next steps for younger children's learning.
- Professional development plans are not precisely targeted on raising the quality of staff's teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more effective use of the information gained from assessments to focus precisely on what children need to learn next, in order to help them to make the best possible progress
- enhance professional development opportunities to help to raise the quality of the staff's teaching to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the provider.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the provider, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working with children. The inspector discussed with the provider and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion during the inspection.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are able to identify the signs of abuse and know how to report their concerns. The deputy manager has completed designated person training and ensures that staff are provided with up-to-date advice and support. Staff are aware of how to implement the whistle-blowing policy if they have any concerns about those working with children. The indoor and extensive outdoor environments are thoroughly risk assessed to help identify and minimise potential risks to children. The provider uses robust recruitment procedures. This helps her to ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. The provider is pro-active in promoting partnerships with other settings that children attend. Staff supervision and deployment is good, which ensures that children are well supported and closely supervised.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy playing in the nursery's mud kitchen. They use their imagination to make up stories about what they are doing. Staff promote children's communication and language skills well. They encourage older children to engage in discussions about things that interest them, such as dinosaurs and crocodiles. Children enthusiastically tell staff that their dinosaur 'eats chicken and apple', and the crocodile has 'sharp teeth'. Staff use everyday activities to introduce mathematical language. For example, children talk proudly about their family and staff ask 'who is the biggest brother?'. Staff skilfully maintain older children's attention during games. They remind them of the rules and purpose of the game, and help children to understand what they need to do next.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong relationships with their key person and other staff. They actively seek them out for support when needed and to join in with their games. Children enjoy fresh fruit and rice cakes at snack time. Staff use this opportunity to discuss healthy lifestyles. Children are well behaved. Older children are supported to learn how to take turns and share during activities and board games. Younger children are given gentle reminders, such as how to line up when coming back from playing outdoor games. Children are supported to learn how to take measured risks, such as climbing a ladder to reach the tree house.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop hand-to-eye coordination as they use kitchen implements to cook a pretend meal. Older children are able to communicate their needs to staff and each other through discussion. Younger children are able to follow simple instructions and are beginning to ask simple questions. Young children are very eager to explore and investigate toys that interest them. Older children enjoy taking part in adult-led activities, such as group time. Children are developing skills in preparation for their next stage in learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY535765
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10076783
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	61
Name of registered person	The Duckling Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535764
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07771645270

The Duckling Nursery re-registered in 2016 and is run by a limited company. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above and the manager holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, during school term times. Sessions include a breakfast and after-school club, which runs between 7.30am to 5.30pm on Monday to Thursday, and from 7.30am to 12.45pm on Friday. A holiday club opens for several weeks during the school summer holidays from 9am to 3pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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