

Puddleducks Day Nursery

Blackymore Community Centre, Butts Croft Close, East Hunsbury, Northamptonshire,
NN4 0WP



Inspection date	29 April 2015
Previous inspection date	26 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching and care is exceptional. All staff have a superb understanding of childcare and development. They use this knowledge to plan an extensive variety of challenging play opportunities and experiences, that sustain children's interest and build on what they already know. As a result, children make excellent progress and develop a thirst to learn and be involved.
- Children are supported extremely well through a effective key-person system. Superb relationships develop from the start of each child's placement, as home visits enable children to become familiar with the staff in the security of their home before coming into nursery.
- Staff place great emphasis on establishing secure partnerships with parents and outside agencies. Children's needs are continually known and met effectively as processes for communication are secure. This ensures that all adults involved in children's lives are fully aware of their changing needs and abilities.
- Leadership and management is inspirational. Staffs enthusiasm, commitment and drive to continually enhance the provision, includes excellent processes for self-evaluation. This enables management and staff to identify ways to successfully improve the already exceptional service.
- Staff strive to maintain their exceptional knowledge and expertise through their ongoing professional development. Staff absorb new information and cascade this to their colleagues within nursery. This enables them to bring new ideas and skills into nursery, which in turn effectively enhances the opportunities and experiences available to children.
- Staff's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices are excellent. Their awareness of the various signs of abuse and neglect is superb and they demonstrate the greatest vigilance in ensuring the safety and well-being of the children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already excellent opportunities for children to familiarise themselves and talk about the move to school by, for example, providing photographs of their new environment and the teaching staff which the children can access freely.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector spent time with the manager of the provision and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all members of staff, their qualifications and the provider's processes for self-evaluation.
- The inspector reviewed documentation, including children's records, learning and development information, staff records and a selection of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Tracey Boland

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff's understanding of how children learn and develop through play is used to great effect. They continually enhance and extend children's learning through the use of a vast range of activities and discussions. Children develop superb mathematical skills as they count, match, measure and pre-empt size. For example, they discuss how many ladybird figures it will take to reach from one side of the table to another, and will that change if the ladybirds are placed side-by-side or end-to-end. Children use their early writing skills to recreate pictures and words that reflect things they see in the local community. Children's love of books is nurtured excellently. They join in with familiar text and rhyme and older children understand that books have an author and an illustrator, and speech bubbles in books reflect something that a person saying. Children are supported extremely well through change, such as the move to school. Staff continually strive to enhance this even further, for example, by introducing photographs of the school environment to encourage discussions further and allay any fears.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children enter an interesting and exciting environment. Their natural curiosity to learn and their independence is nurtured as they make choices with regard to their play. Relationships between staff and children are superb and supported through the excellent key-person system. Staffs knowledge of each child grows as staff meticulously discuss and record a wealth of information about each child, in order to effectively meet their needs. Behaviour is excellent. Children's confidence and self-esteem flourishes as staff place great emphasis on praise and encouragement for all children. Children's health and well-being is nurtured as they spend time outdoors in the fresh air. Their physical abilities flourish as they use large climbing equipment that builds their confidence, coordination and balance. They relish using small tools to dig in the soil and plant various bulbs and seeds. This supports their understanding of how things grow and develop, and builds their awareness of the importance of food, water and sunlight to support growth.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The leadership and management within the nursery are exceptional. The manager's drive and ambition to continually enhance the provision is infectious. She places great value on the views of parents and staff regarding her service. The manager and staff are proactive with regard to their own professional development. Recent training focusing on the use of open-ended questioning with children has proved invaluable. Children's language skills flourish as staff are confident in their approach of maximising children's communication skills. Regular team meetings and appraisals highlights the staff teams exceptional practice, skills and abilities and ensures the service provided remains outstanding. Staff have a meticulous understanding about how to ensure children are safeguarded. Partnerships with parents and other professionals are outstanding. Parents feel staff provide support, guidance and an invaluable service.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220145
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	865852
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Sharon Eileen Collins
Date of previous inspection	26 May 2011
Telephone number	01604 763993

Puddleducks Day Nursery opened in 1997. The nursery employs seven members of staff. Of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, four at level 3 and two are unqualified. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. The nursery provides early education funding for two- and three-year-old children.

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