

Harlow

Harlow Leisurezone, Second Avenue, Harlow, Essex, CM20 3DT



Inspection date	7 October 2016
Previous inspection date	28 July 2015

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

- Partnership between staff and other professionals is very strong. There are regular meetings and plans in place to meet the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. As a result, these children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children are given many opportunities to be creative. They listen to the different sounds that instruments make, pretend to build outdoors with bricks and tools and imagine going on a bear hunt. Consequently, they explore and use a variety of ways to express themselves.
- Self-evaluation is robust. Managers set high standards and regularly challenge their own processes in order to make improvements for the children's care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The routines in place and the organisation of children's activities do not always maximise their opportunities to learn.
- While absences and lateness are recorded, the system does not allow patterns and reasons for these to be recognised in order to fully support children's welfare.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the routines of the day so that waiting periods are minimised and learning is maximised for all children across the nursery
- consider the system for tracking absences so that any patterns that may be a concern are identified.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed general play and routines in the play rooms of the nursery. She talked with the staff, parents and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff members, and a range of other documentation. First-aid and safeguarding training certificates were viewed.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation processes in place with the manager.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the management team in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Elke Rockey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have good knowledge of child protection concerns and how to raise these concerns within the nursery and with relevant agencies. Furthermore, the recruitment and induction processes ensure that staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Ongoing meetings between managers and staff mean that the standard of care and learning provided is closely monitored. Staff are encouraged to acquire appropriate qualifications. Effective monitoring methods are used to support staff's training needs and senior staff give regular support to improve the standard of teaching. This includes close and accurate tracking of groups so that gaps in learning are identified and children's key workers help them to develop understanding and make progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know their key children well. They use information from parents and observe children on a regular basis to assess their learning. Staff accurately identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities to match their abilities. As a result, children make good progress. Staff support young children's communication skills by talking to them about what they are doing. Children respond by vocalising and with smiles. Older children are developing early literacy skills. They sit and draw meaningful pictures of people who are special to them. Staff lead exciting phonics sessions where children learn how to make the correct sounds of letters while singing songs. Staff count toy objects during play with babies. This means babies are gaining awareness of mathematical concepts. Staff keep parents well informed about their children's progress and ideas to extend their development at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are calm and patient with all children. They clearly explain to the children why behaviour is not safe or is unacceptable. As a result, children are learning appropriate ways to behave. New children are sensitively supported as they become familiar with the staff and the play areas. Young children are caring towards each other. For example, at a small group time, one toddler stroked the back of another child who started crying. Staff communicate effectively to ensure that children are safe and well supervised. Children practise their independence skills as they serve themselves, lunch and pour their own drinks. Children's health is promoted well because they benefit from balanced and nutritious meals. Nursery staff cater carefully for any individual dietary needs. Parents feel well supported by staff as they are encouraged to share detailed information regularly about their children. This provides continuity of care.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff focus learning on children's social skills. For example, children are encouraged to listen to each other while eating their lunch. They patiently wait their turn and answer questions about what their food tastes like. This means that they are effectively gaining the skills they will need for school and the next steps in their lives.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY399612
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1074001
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	44
Number of children on roll	164
Name of registered person	Dizzy Ducks Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP908098
Date of previous inspection	28 July 2015
Telephone number	01279454495

Dizzy Ducks Nursery Ltd was registered in 2010 on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff, 11 of whom have level 3 qualifications or above and one who has a level 6 qualification. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7am until 7pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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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