

Ducklings Venterdon Pre-School

Venterdon Chapel, Venterdon, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PD

Inspection date	13 October 2015
Previous inspection date	16 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This 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 manager has a secure understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and runs the pre-school very effectively. This has a positive impact on the children and families who attend.
- The manager and staff monitor how well children progress in their learning. Staff use this information and make changes to improve the curriculum, or other aspects, so any gaps are filled.
- Partnerships with schools and other settings children attend are effective, and promote a consistent approach. Staff support children to develop key skills, which helps children to feel confident about their move to school and future learning.
- The quality of teaching is very good. Staff interact with children positively and, overall, support their communication and language skills well.
- Staff have consistent expectations and give children clear guidance and praise for good behaviour and tolerance. Children behave well, respect each other and make friends.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff provide rich opportunities for exploration and physical activity outdoors. However, there are fewer opportunities for children to consistently explore using their senses and develop their physical skills.
- Staff do not consistently ask questions or encourage children to explore their own thoughts, explanations and ideas about what they are doing.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to explore using their senses and develop their physical skills throughout the learning environment
- extend children's thinking skills by giving them more opportunities and encouragement to share their thoughts and ideas when playing alongside staff.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this had on children's learning both inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have attended relevant training and have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child. Children understand how to keep themselves safe because staff teach them, for instance, how to behave sensibly and practise evacuations. The staff team is well qualified and experienced in childcare. There is a strong programme of professional development, and the manager supervises staff effectively to develop their practice further. Staff training has led staff to review their interactions with children as they play. This has had a positive impact on the quality of teaching and the progress children make. Staff are reflective of their practice and use self-evaluation effectively to make improvements. They have successfully addressed the recommendations raised at the last inspection. ?

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and staff have a secure understanding of the learning and development requirements. They observe, monitor and assess children regularly, and use the detailed information to plan for the next steps in their learning. This means children's individual needs are met well. Staff introduced simple mathematical language, such as 'heavy' and 'light', as children filled watering cans. This effectively helps to support children's mathematical skills. Adult-led sessions are of good quality, and children have fun identifying different sounds, developing their concentration and listening skills. Children develop good early literacy skills, for example, as they have lots of experience of drawing, chalking and recognising their names. At inspection, children were creative, and concentrated for long periods of time as they used play dough and a range of interesting resources, such as feathers, to make 'monsters'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The caring and attentive staff form good relationships with children and families. They encourage children to share and collaborate with others. In the outdoor area, for example, children enjoyed gathering leaves in buckets. They cooperated with one another to use a pulley to lift them up and down. Their social and physical development improved while they enjoyed the activity and had fun. Staff organise snack and lunch times well so children can talk to each other while they eat nutritious food. Children benefit from growing their own produce, finding out about nature and where food comes from.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. This includes children who need extra help with their learning and development. Children show high levels of self-confidence, even though many children are new to the pre-school. Children are well prepared for their future learning and the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	102887
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	824713
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Ducklings Venterdon Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2011
Telephone number	07813 929171

Ducklings Venterdon Pre-School registered in 1979. The pre-school is run by a voluntary committee. It operates from a converted Methodist Chapel Hall in Venterdon village near to the town of Callington. It is open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9am until 1pm, and on Wednesday and Thursday from 9am until 3pm, during school term times. The pre-school receives early education funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are four permanent staff employed to work with the children. The manager has a degree and three members of staff hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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