

Inspection of Ducklings Day Nursery

2 Western Road, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0LB

Inspection date: 8 September 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settled at the nursery. Staff are welcoming and greet children with warmth and affection. Knowledgeable staff support children well and successfully identify and meet their individual needs. Staff are passionate about providing children with rich learning experiences in a relaxed and calm environment. Staff know children well and form strong and secure relationships with them. This helps to support children's emotional development.

Children are motivated and are keen to learn. Staff support them to persevere, embedding determination from a young age. For example, children focus carefully on adopting correct positions during a yoga session. Leaders and staff create a peaceful and calm atmosphere. They communicate respectfully with children, offering them choices and acknowledging their feelings. As a result, children's behaviour is very good and they play well with others.

Staff plan the nursery environment thoughtfully to support children's learning and development. Children have lots of opportunities to engage in independent play and to explore the world around them. For example, children enjoy exploring the sensory panel in the garden. They watch with wonder as they make water splashes by dropping small balls into a tray of water. Staff make good use of indoor and outdoor play spaces so that children are engaged in meaningful, interesting and exciting play throughout the day.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leaders are clear about the aims for children's learning. They plan and implement a well-structured curriculum, which helps children to develop and learn effectively. Leaders and staff successfully highlight areas of the provision they want to improve for children. For example, a recent focus on outdoor learning means that staff have significantly broadened the opportunities for children in this area. This enhances children's experiences.
- The experienced and strong leadership team supports staff's well-being and professional development effectively. Leaders provide comprehensive support for their team through regular meetings and an extensive range of training opportunities. A dedicated well-being officer is also available for staff to discuss concerns confidentially if needed. This has a beneficial impact on staff and, as a result, children's experiences.
- Staff help children to learn about managing risk. They talk with children about being safe. For example, staff talk about road safety with children as they walk together to the nursery allotment nearby. Staff show children how to look both ways at the crossing. Children know to wait for the green figure to light up and the beeps to sound before they can cross the road. They learn different ways to

help keep themselves safe.

- Staff support all children to make good progress from their individual starting points. They identify gaps in learning promptly and act swiftly when children need additional support. Leaders and staff work closely with parents and other professionals to make sure all children's needs are met well.
- Staff support children's learning and spark new interests through their play. They introduce new and interesting activities throughout the day. For example, children become engrossed in a planned planting activity. They excitedly fill their individual pots to the top with compost and press the seeds in with care and determination. Children are motivated to learn and explore.
- Children's communication and language development is of high priority. Staff and children sing nursery rhymes together often. They look at favourite and familiar books together. Early intervention strategies help staff to identify language concerns quickly. They plan specific activities that support children's communication development well.
- Staff's interactions with children are positive and support their learning. Staff join in with and comment on children's play and plan exciting activities for them. However, staff do not always use their skills to help children make the most of all opportunities for learning. For instance, staff do not always introduce a wide range of vocabulary, including words related to mathematics, to help children to make even better progress.
- Staff give parents plenty of information about their children's well-being and about their day. Parents comment that their children love coming to nursery. Staff foster strong partnerships with parents. They use an online platform to support effective communication. Parents feel informed about their children's progress and experiences. This promotes consistency of care and learning for children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop staff's knowledge and understanding of how to make the most of every opportunity to further enhance children's learning and help them to make even better progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2639886
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	10410148
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 3
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Ducklings Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2639884
Telephone number	01562885523
Date of previous inspection	25 July 2023

Information about this early years setting

Ducklings Day Nursery registered in 2021 and operates in the Hagley area of Stourbridge, Worcestershire. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. There are 24 members of childcare staff, of whom 22 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 7. The nursery provides government funded early education for eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Juliette Freeman

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the registered individual, the manager and the deputy manager about the leadership and management, and about the early years curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector and the deputy manager carried out a joint observation.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

We carried out this inspection 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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