

Munchkins Nursery

Unit 1, Canal Court Business Centre, CARLISLE, Cumbria, CA2 7AN



Inspection date	22 November 2016
Previous inspection date	10 December 2012

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

- The nursery has effective leadership and management. There is a strong team spirit and reflective practice is well embedded throughout the staff team. The manager is committed and ambitious for the success of the nursery. She monitors the quality of the provision well and identifies areas for further improvement.
- Staff engage well with children to support their communication skills. They provide a good narrative for the youngest children and ask well-posed questions to support older children's critical-thinking skills. Children make good progress in their learning.
- The key-person system is very well established and effective. Settling-in arrangements and transitions to the next rooms are well planned and facilitated according to the individual needs of the child. This helps children to grow in confidence and feel secure.
- Staff form effective partnerships with agencies and other professionals. They work closely together to provide consistent care and support for children. This is especially evident for those children who have special educational needs. Advice received is threaded effectively into planning and ensures children receive a consistent approach from all adults working with them.
- Staff work closely with parents, who are complimentary about the nursery and staff team. There is a good two-way flow of communication and information sharing, supporting continuity in children's care and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There is scope to enhance the monitoring of the progress children make over time that promotes their learning even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance systems that monitor the progress children make over time and help raise their learning to the highest level.

Inspection activities

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

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. They receive regular safeguarding training to support them in their roles. Robust recruitment, induction and vetting procedures are in place to help ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Risks are identified and minimised effectively so that children can play in a safe environment. Staff receive support and guidance from the management team as they participate in meetings, supervision and appraisals. Staff are encouraged to undertake regular training to maintain their teaching skills. Additional funding is used successfully to support children to achieve their full potential.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and, overall, accurately assess children's achievements. They use their good knowledge of the children, along with information from parents, to inform planning. This helps children reach the next steps in their learning. Staff help babies develop their curiosity and explore the world around them. For example, they encourage them to explore cause and effect through a range of different mechanical toys. They quickly learn how to work the mechanisms and delight in the results of their explorations. Staff set challenges for children as they explore their number skills. For example, they encourage children to match numbers and find the corresponding tubes during a mathematics activity. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported well by staff. They develop a good level of English and have opportunities to play and learn using their home language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a warm and welcoming nursery environment. Children confidently enter the nursery and are quick to settle in and begin play. The impact of the nursery's focus on the social and emotional development of children is evident. Children are polite and friendly and follow the rules and routine of the day. They respond positively to staff's behaviour management, which is implemented effectively and consistently. Children are well supported in their physical and emotional well-being. They learn about different health-related topics, such as the importance of brushing teeth, during national health initiatives. Children use their risk assessment skills well. They use the range of large construction blocks and other balancing equipment during play outdoors. Children investigate and use their skills to mount and dismount safely.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress, including funded children, those who speak English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs. Staff promote equality and diversity well and children enjoy activities based around cultural festivals. Children are confident, motivated learners. They are keen to join in and show good levels of engagement as they play. Children develop the necessary skills that they need in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	317389
Local authority	Cumbria
Inspection number	1059568
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	90
Name of registered person	Munchkins (Carlisle) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP524948
Date of previous inspection	10 December 2012
Telephone number	01228 592099

Munchkins Nursery was registered in 1996. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs 13 members of staff. All staff hold an appropriate early years qualification, including the manager, who is qualified to level 4. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs.

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