

Inspection of YMCA Little Ducklings Nursery

19 & 20 Teal Avenue, Lyneham, Chippenham SN15 4QA

Inspection date: 7 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive at the nursery and enter happily. Pre-school children hang up their belongings and are eager to join in with staff who are leading a 'wake and shake' activity. Children show they have formed secure relationships with staff, who are keen to hear about what they did with their families at the weekend. Babies receive warmth and cuddles from the staff as they look at books together. Staff support young children to roll balls down a slide, climb the steps to follow them and go down the slide themselves.

The manager has a clear vision for what she wants children to learn as they progress through the nursery and on to school. Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those at risk of falling behind, make good progress in relation to their starting points. This includes children who receive additional funding.

Older children show excitement about the activities, cheering when they know they can join in with painting, for example. They concentrate well, are keen to share their ideas and show real motivation towards their learning. Toddlers are eager to join in with a dough activity. They join in with rolling the dough and making star shapes, which they then stick on the window.

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

- The manager is committed to developing the nursery and has clear priorities for improvement. For instance, she has plans to extend the garden, to introduce forest school sessions, and to train a member of staff to run these. She intends for these to widen children's opportunities for outdoor learning. In addition, she has developed the older children's community engagement and created a community larder. This has enhanced children's understanding of the people in their local area.
- Children's behaviour is good, and staff are positive role models. They praise children for their achievements, saying 'good job', which boosts children's self-esteem. Children are encouraged to talk about their feelings and emotions from a young age. Toddlers can say if they are 'happy' or 'sad'. Older children describe how they feel using words such as 'loved' and 'scared', when talking about the 'boom' of the fireworks.
- Children have lots of opportunities to develop their physical skills. Babies are helped to progress from crawling to cruising and walking, and staff plan the resources and environment to support this. Older children enjoy running around outdoors playing games, and they climb and balance on various equipment.
- Children develop good levels of independence from a young age. Toddlers collect their place mats, cups and plates and then clear their plates away,

gaining skills in readiness to move on to pre-school. Children take themselves to the toilet, wash their hands and put on their coats and boots to go outdoors to play.

- Staff support children's speech and language well, overall. Staff narrate what young children are doing, repeat words back to them correctly and model new vocabulary. Staff working with older children ask them open questions to encourage their thinking, and support them to remember and talk about what they have previously learned. Children recall that leaves fall off the trees in autumn and that the acorns they find grow on trees.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. They report that they are well informed about their children's days and are happy with the progress their children are making. They receive weekly challenges so they can complete activities with their children at home, such as going on a nature walk to collect autumn resources to bring into nursery. However, parents do not always know what their children's next steps are to enable them to continue to focus on and support these at home.
- Staff know the children and what they need to learn next very well, including children with SEND and children who are at risk of falling behind. However, sometimes group activities do not focus precisely on children's next steps to help them make even better progress and to close any gaps more quickly.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff have a sound knowledge of child protection and safeguarding issues. They know the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child's welfare or the behaviour of a colleague. Recruitment procedures are effective in checking staff are suitable to work with children. Staff check the premises for risks and minimise these, such as by pouring stagnant water out of troughs in the garden.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance partnerships with parents so that information is regularly shared about their children's next steps and how they can continue learning at home
- train staff to plan more precisely for individual children's next steps during group activities, to help them make even better progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2594608
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10249203
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 4
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	YMCA Brunel Group
Registered person unique reference number	2594616
Telephone number	01249 890278
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

YMCA Little Ducklings Nursery registered in June 2020. It operates from two houses in Lyneham, Wiltshire. Nine members of staff work with the children. The manager is qualified at level 6, three members of staff are qualified at level 3 and three have qualifications at level 2. The nursery is open all year round, from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Charlotte Jenkin
Rosie Pritchard

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and inspectors carried out a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspectors about their friends and what they like to do at nursery.
- The inspectors talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education being provided and the impact this was having on children's learning.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- The inspectors spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspectors relevant documentation, including suitability checks, qualification, and training certificates.

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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