

Squirrels Children Day Nursery, Middleton

Former Baptist Church, Green Street, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2HU



Inspection date	25 July 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Children behave well and have good manners. Staff remind them if their behaviour or actions are not acceptable and give an explanation. Children make good friendships and feel valued. They show caring and respectful attitudes to each other.
- Staff work well with parents and involve them in their children's learning. Staff talk to parents daily to exchange information on children's progress and well-being. This helps to promote continuity in children's care and learning.
- The management team and staff are proactive and dedicated. They evaluate all areas of the nursery to identify and form key goals for improvement. This includes, taking into account children's, staff's and parents' views in what is working well and what improvements need to be made.
- Staff provide a warm, welcoming environment for children. A wide range of resources is available and staff plan activities that engage and motivate children as they play. This helps support children's learning outcomes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not make full use of learning opportunities to extend children's learning and skills fully.
- There are few opportunities to help children learn and understand about how things grow, decay and change in the natural world around them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff's knowledge and skills, to enable them to make full use of activities and experiences to extend children's learning
- provide more opportunities for children to use their skills and enhance their learning and understanding of growth, decay and change in the natural world around them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of interactions during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning and enjoyment.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection at appropriate times and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.

Inspector

Kellie Lever

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of what to do to keep children safe and how to refer child protection concerns. Furthermore, they have a strong understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of an accident and the need to maintain confidential records securely. Managers carry out staff supervisory meetings and give staff the opportunity to discuss children's progress and identify any gaps in their learning. Information held about groups of children is used effectively. For example, staff have attended additional training to extend their knowledge of ways to promote mathematics after identifying children are making less progress. This has had a great impact and recent data shows a vast improvement throughout the nursery in this area.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The nursery is set out attractively with good quality equipment and clearly defined learning areas. This helps support children as they make decisions about what they do and initiate their own play and learning. Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff support babies with their emerging physical skills as they set up interesting activities around the room that entice them to move independently to access them. Staff play alongside toddlers and demonstrate how to use different tools in the sand, providing them with additional words, such as 'pat' and 'tap'. Staff give older children the time to explore their own ideas and offer suggestions to further ignite their imagination as they act out being 'super heroes'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emotional development well and form good attachments with their key person. Children are well prepared when they first begin attending nursery and when they move rooms. For example, good-quality information is gathered from parents on entry. This provides continuity and supports children's emotional and physical needs very well. Children show high levels of confidence in social situations. They share resources and play alongside one another. Staff help children understand how to behave safely and recognise potential risks. For example, children know to line up and move safely as they walk up and down stairs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. Older children's speaking and listening skills are good and consistent routines support these skills well. For example, during group discussions they hold props when it is their time to speak. Other children sit attentively taking interest in what each other have to say. Younger children acquire a range of words to extend their vocabulary and eagerly repeat these words to others, using them in context. Children build important skills that help them with their future learning and in readiness for school, such as being independent during hygiene routines and mealtimes. Children develop an awareness of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY499184
Local authority	Rochdale
Inspection number	1109118
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	93
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Squirrels Middleton Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900827
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01616435006

Squirrels Children Day Nursery Middleton re-registered in 2016. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round with the exception of bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The nursery employs 15 members of staff. Of these, 11 hold an appropriate early years qualification, ranging from level 6 to level 2. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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