

Turncroft Nursery School

Highfield Road, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 2DN



Inspection date

24 May 2016

Previous inspection date

18 May 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff support children's language and communication skills excellently, including those children who have special educational needs or disability. Staff repeat new words to extend upon children's vocabulary and understanding.
- Staff ask children questions and stimulate their creative-thinking skills as they encourage them to explore activities. Staff know children very well and are highly skilled at promoting their learning and development.
- Self-evaluation and development plans are highly effective in bringing about rapid improvement in quality for children. The views of parents, staff and children are taken into account when identifying strengths and priorities for further improvement. This helps to drive improvement, which benefits children to the highest level.
- Staff talk to children about how they are feeling and teach them about social skills, such as sharing and turn taking. Children behave impeccably and play and learn together.
- Staff develop extremely strong relationships with children and their families. Parents commend staff for their commitment to their children and praise them for their ongoing support.
- Staff work extremely closely with the attached nursery school to ensure that children are extremely well prepared for the move on to the next phase of their learning.
- Exceptionally good programmes for the supervision of staff and professional development ensure that the quality of teaching at the nursery and staff morale is exceptionally high. The headteacher monitors staff closely and weekly staff meetings inspire and support all staff.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to monitor any gaps in achievements between different groups of children and enhance the excellent provision even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used by children.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector engaged in discussions with the staff and children throughout the inspection at appropriate times.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation and the impact this has on the setting.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the headteacher.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Kerry Holder

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff undertake extensive training to refresh and extend their knowledge in regards to child protection. Staff have comprehensive knowledge of the procedures to follow and who to contact in the event of any concerns about a child in their care. The headteacher and senior staff team at the nursery are exceptionally well qualified and motivated. Their inspirational leadership and uncompromising expectations are communicated to the whole staff team, who share their vision for excellence. Senior staff monitor the delivery of the educational programme, assessing the quality of teaching and observations to ensure that it enables children to make the best possible progress. The headteacher talks with confidence about how she intends to continue to monitor any gaps in achievement for different groups of children. Staff work in partnership with a range of other professionals who are involved in children's care, such as advisory teachers and speech and language therapists.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are very competent and eager learners who engage in an extensive and balanced range of highly stimulating activities and experiences. They develop their early writing skills while exploring differing media. For example, children make tracks in sand and use pencils to write their names. Children become deeply involved and motivated in their learning. For example, they excitedly explore the environment in search for items for their picnic snack. They develop their mathematical skills as they cut up sandwiches and make sure there are enough for everyone. These activities help children to expertly solve their own problems. Staff observe children at play and use their highly accurate observations to track children's progress against expected developmental stages. Staff share their findings with parents in differing ways to encourage their ongoing involvement in children's learning. For example, they use social media to effectively share children's next steps in learning and invite parents into the setting to stay-and-play sessions. This helps parents to significantly complement children's learning at home and in the nursery.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The nursery garden provides children with a wide range of opportunities to develop their larger muscles and physical skills. Children confidently climb, ride bicycles and embrace the natural resources on offer. Children gain a sense of independence through the extremely accessible environment and through tasks that encourage them to do things for themselves. Children enjoy healthy mealtimes together where they sit with staff and discuss healthy options. They display exceptionally high levels of self-esteem and confidence and have the emotional readiness they need for successful learning. Staff are deployed excellently and they supervise children exceptionally well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make rapid progress in their learning and development relative to their individual starting points. They form excellent relationships with staff and their peers, developing their emotional well-being, confidence and enjoyment of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY280038
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	848654
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 11
Total number of places	71
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP518323
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2009
Telephone number	01254 701 534

Turncroft Nursery School was registered in 2004. The nursery employs nine members of staff, three of these are childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, including the headteacher with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery also offers sessions to wrap around the free entitlement sessions with the on-site school nursery. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children and cares for children who have special educational needs or disability.

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