



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY288945

DfES Number: 538147

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	21/02/2005
Inspector Name	Eileen Rochford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Emerald Nursery
Setting Address	Sure Start Centre Clifford Road Stanley County Durham DH9 0AB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Emerald Childcare
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Emerald Childcare
Address	Station House, Bridge End Frosterley Bishop Auckland County Durham DL13 2SL

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Emerald Nursery and Children's Centre, Stanley is one of three day care facilities run by a husband and wife partnership. It was registered in June 2004 and operates from two main areas which are further sub divided.

A maximum of 26 children attend the nursery at any one time, of whom 15 may be under two years.

The nursery is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year.

All children share access to a secure outdoor play area. There are currently 46 children from birth to five years on the roll. Of these 4 receive funding for nursery education.

Children come from the local area.

The nursery currently supports children with special educational needs. However there are currently no children with English as an additional language.

The nursery employs ten staff. Seven of the staff, including the manager, hold an appropriate child care qualification, with two working towards a qualification

The nursery receives support from the Local authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Emerald Nursery provides good care for children. All staff within the setting are vetted, with information kept on staff files. The premises provide a warm welcoming environment for both adults and children, with space within the rooms very well organised. All records are in place, however consideration should be given to confidentiality when recording. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which encompasses all aspects of the care provided.

Safety within the setting is given high priority. Children are encouraged to develop

an understanding and awareness of safety issues. Hygiene is very good, staff understand the importance of developing children's awareness and understanding of these issues, through everyday activities. Healthy meals are provided, with menus displayed daily for parents. Staff encourage children to develop independence through setting tables and meals are served in a social setting.

The group provides a rich and stimulating learning environment for children. They are able to explore and experiment with a range of activities, at their own pace, and are supported by a committed staff team. Children have developed sound relationships with adults and peers, and are confident and happy, talking freely to everyone in the group. They have a range of resources which reflects the cultural diversity of society and promotes equal opportunities in all aspects of group life. The group has a positive approach to special needs and including all children in activities. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection.

Staff work very well with parents. They ensure that parents are kept informed on a daily basis, using various methods. They have developed professional relationships based on mutual respect, encouraging parents to become involved. Children's behaviour within the group is excellent. They are supported by staff who provide positive role models, value positive behaviour and develop children's awareness of right and wrong.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Children develop a range of skills through the stimulating activities provided in the group. They become engrossed and involved in their chosen activity
- Children develop a sound understanding of safety, health and hygiene issues, through a wide range of exciting everyday activities.
- There is a wide and comprehensive range of policies and procedures in the group. These allow everyone to be kept informed of practice. Parents are encouraged to access these.
- High expectations of staff, promote excellent behaviour within the group. Children understand the boundaries and respect these with children involved in setting "group rules" which are displayed around the rooms.
- In all areas of the group staff have developed excellent relationships with the children. Children freely seek their support, and staff are alert to all individual needs of the children and ensure activities are provided to meet their needs.
- The group have developed very good relationships with parents who are kept well informed using a range of methods. Staff are always available to discuss any issues.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedure for completing medication records to ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
7	Ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times with records.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

Emerald Nursery provides high quality nursery education which enables children to make very good progress towards all the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good, ensuring that children are making progress and moving confidently through the stepping stones with enthusiasm and enjoyment. Planning is very good and ensures that the sessions run smoothly. Staff have organised the room well to provide children with a stimulating and well organised learning environment in which they play and learn. Staff interaction with the children is very good. This has a positive impact on children's attitudes and motivation to learn. Staff are secure in their knowledge of the early learning goals and this is reflected in the range of activities and resources presented to children, the time given to them to explore and experiment and the support that is always available when needed. Staff provide very good role models for children and manage behaviour very well.

The leadership and management of the group is very effective. Staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, and are committed to running the group well. The group ensures that activities are evaluated and uses this information in staff meetings to develop future practice. Staff are encouraged to attend training identified as appropriate for their development. The staff are fully committed to the continued improvement of the care and education of the children

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with good information about the group. Staff use the notice board to display the early learning goals, and link planning to these notices. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the group and talk freely with staff.

What is being done well?

- Staff give high priority to nurturing children's personal social and emotional development. Staff establish very good relationships with children, and respond with enthusiasm to children's needs. Children are confident and secure in this environment.
- Children effectively learn to count, recognise shape size and numbers, and are developing a concept of halves and quarters through a range of everyday activities. Practical everyday activities are used effectively to enable children to use their knowledge to solve simple mathematical problems.
- Children are developing a very good understanding of the world in which they live. They have the opportunity to access a range of exciting activities and materials to stimulate imagination. Children investigate the world in which they live, and learn with enthusiasms about changes.

- The accommodation and the use of time and resources is very good. The bright and stimulating environment together with the presentation and organisation of activities ensures that children's independence is encouraged and their natural curiosity to investigate and experiment is fostered to a high standard.
- The high quality of teaching has a very positive impact on children's learning. Staff ensure that a wide range of activities is available for children. They provide appropriate challenges, teach them new skills, and refresh and refine skills already learnt.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Good communication between staff and parents ensures that they are kept fully informed about all aspects of their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- Opportunities for children to express themselves and use their imagination through music and movement.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children relate very well to peers and adults within the group, and demonstrate consideration for each other and their environment. Children behave very well, with staff providing positive role models. Children are able to make connections between home and group. Their confidence and independence is developed by sensitive support and interesting resources that are easily accessed.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's language is developing very well. They express themselves imaginatively and confidently, and speak well in group situations. Children are developing skills in speaking and listening enabling them to communicate effectively. Children have very good access to written text and experience effective and exciting story times that capture their imagination. Older children are recognising their own names and are beginning to form letters with a range of tools.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are aware of number in all areas of group life. Numbers are displayed around the room. Children confidently count to five and above. Children are able to access a range of interesting, attractive equipment to support their learning. They recognise shape and size and use positional language appropriately in their play. Older children, with support, are beginning to solve mathematical problems in exciting everyday activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing a very good awareness of their environment. They access a wide and varied range of first hand experiences and explore and investigate with increasing skill. Children are developing an understanding of time and are able to differentiate between yesterday, tomorrow and today. They are developing very good concentration skills which enables them to complete complex pieces of work, using a range of materials and investigating different properties of the materials.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to move confidently and safely within the group, showing good awareness of space and others. They negotiate obstacles skilfully. Opportunities to move to music are limited. They are able to express their feelings both in large and small groups. Children use small tools, which older children use with increasing control. They are aware of their own bodily functions and how to keep themselves healthy.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are very successful in exploring shape, colour, form and texture in two and three dimensions, for example, making slime and painting in planned activities. All children are confident in expressing real and imagined experiences in role and home play. Children enjoy music and song and respond purposefully and appropriately when joining in with singing and story. Children use their senses well and positively respond to planned sensory activities.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- develop opportunities for children to express themselves and use their imagination through music and movement.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.