



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY240209

DfES Number: 538138

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/11/2004
Inspector Name	Eileen Rochford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Emerald Nursery and Children's Centre - Crook
Setting Address	11 North Terrace Crook County Durham DL15 9AZ

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 - Crook, is one of three day care facilities run by a husband and wife partnership. It was registered in January 2003 and operates from one large building, with accommodation on three floors, in the centre of Crook.

A maximum of fifty three children attend the nursery at any one time with twenty one 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 enclosed outdoor play area. There are currently ninety four children aged from birth to eight years on roll. Of these ten 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 thirteen staff. Eight of the staff including the manager hold appropriate qualifications with three working towards a qualification. The nursery receives support from the Local Authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Emerald Day Nursery provides good care for children. All staff within the setting are vetted, with information kept on staff files. The premises provide a welcoming environment for both adults and children. Space within the rooms is well organised, with consideration given to the ages and stages of the children attending. All records are in place. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures in place which cover all aspects of the care provided. However consideration should be given to storage of records to ensure confidentiality.

Safety within the setting is given priority. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding and awareness of safety issues. Hygiene is satisfactory, staff understand the importance of developing children's awareness and understanding of these issues, through routine everyday activities. However, provision for children to dry their hands is not sufficient to ensure the prevention of cross infection. Healthy

meals are provided, and served to children in a social setting developing social and interpersonal skills .

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 staff. Children have developed sound relationships with both adults and peers, they are confident happy children and talk freely to everyone in the group and visitors. They have a range of resources which reflect the cultural diversity of society and promote equal opportunities in all aspects of the group. The group have a positive approach to special needs. The staff have a sound understanding of child protection and associated issues

Staff work well with parents. They ensure that parents are kept informed on a daily basis, using various methods. They have developed professional relationships with parents based on mutual respect. Children's behaviour within the group is overall good. Staff provide positive role models.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable

What is being done well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children develop a range of skills through the stimulating activities provided in the group, which are appropriate to the needs of the children present. They become engrossed and involved in their chosen activity. Staff have embraced the birth to three matters programme● Space is very well organised to ensure that children are able to access equipment, to support their learning.● Children develop a sound understanding of safety, health and hygiene issues, through 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 which are reviewed annually. Parents are encouraged to access these.● Staff have established very good working relationships with parents. They ensure parents are kept informed using a variety of methods, from notice board to daily information sheets. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the nursery environment

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● storage of accident and medication records to ensure confidentiality● provision for handdrying that prevents cross infection.

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.)

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint regarding staff ratios relating to Standard 2 Organisation. An investigation was carried out by the provider and a full report has been received. It is anticipated that there will be no further action.

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 that medication and accident records are stored with consideration to confidentiality.
7	Ensure that hygiene practices are adopted to prevent cross infection.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Emerald Nursery provides good quality nursery education overall which helps children make generally good progress towards all the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff have adequate knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals and use this satisfactorily to ensure that children progress and move confidently through the stepping stones. Planning is generally good and is linked to the areas of learning. However, sometimes there are insufficient challenges to meet the needs of all the children and organisation of space and groups sometimes limits the development of activities. Staff interaction with the children is good and has a positive impact on children's attitudes to learning. Staff allow children the time to explore and experiment and support is always available when required. Staff provide good role models for children and manage behaviour satisfactorily.

The leadership and management of the group is generally good. The manager ensures that staff are supported and there are opportunities for training and development. All staff demonstrate commitment to their work. They identify their strengths and areas for development and aim to monitor and develop their practices further.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with good information about the nursery. Staff use the notice board to display the early learning goals and the planned activities. Parents are encouraged to take a copy of planning home to develop links between home and nursery. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the group, and talk freely with staff.

What is being done well?

- Children are happy and are gaining confidence and independence. They are forming good relationships with each other and interact well with staff.
- Children are learning to speak confidently in small or large groups situations. Some use complex vocabulary; others use gestures and body language to communicate.
- Children effectively learn to count, recognise shape size and numbers through a range of practical everyday activities.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Good communication between staff and parents ensures that parents are kept fully informed about all aspects of their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- grouping of children and organisation of space to ensure that children can develop activities without interruption by younger/less mature children or constraints from lack of space
- organisation of the book corner to encourage children to enjoy books unhampered by other equipment
- monitoring and evaluation of all activities in sufficient detail to ensure that all of the areas of learning are covered at appropriate levels for the children present
- opportunities for more able children to develop mathematical and large physical skills.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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All children are settled and very happy within the group. They are forming sound relationships with staff, adults and peers. They have a good awareness of daily routines. They are interested, and motivated to learn and have a positive approach to new experiences. Most behave very well and demonstrate good self control. Most manage themselves very well in matters of self care eg personal hygiene, although some need help with more difficult tasks eg fastening coats.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children speak confidently and use other gestures to communicate. Their use of the well resourced book corner is limited by the presence of other equipment in the area and some opportunities are missed in storytime due to inappropriate grouping of children. Children enjoy rhythmic activities and are beginning to distinguish between different sounds. All are developing good hand-eye co-ordination. They enjoy mark-making and more able children are beginning to form some recognisable shapes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Some children show an interest in numbers and counting. Through daily routines children are encouraged to count, use number names and develop an interest in shape and size. Some more able children are learning to touch count a series of objects. They are beginning to compare groups of objects in order to recognise when they have the same number.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children enjoy a range of activities that help them develop knowledge and understanding of the world, although organisation of the space limits opportunities for them to design and construct using a variety of materials. They talk about home routines and significant events that happen to them. They show curiosity and interest in why things happen and how things work. Some show an interest in information and communication technology and more able children know how to operate simple equipment.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have regular opportunities for physical activities, but present routines do not ensure that older children are provided with sufficient challenges to progress in large motor skills. All children move around confidently, showing good spatial awareness. All are gaining good hand/eye co-ordination. Many select and use small tools and equipment well. All manage their own needs and healthy practices independently.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
<p>Children enjoy good creative activities that promote colour, and sensory awareness. There are few opportunities to create shapes in three dimensions. Children enjoy songs and action rhymes. Some sing and use musical instruments confidently, whilst others watch and join in when encouraged to do so. Most use body language, gestures and facial expression well to show their feelings. Some use role play well to develop imagination; more able children act out first-hand experiences.</p>	

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- Organise groupings of children and space to ensure that older and more able children have opportunities to develop activities unhindered by younger, less mature children
- organise the book corner to ensure that children are able to enjoy the books unhampered by other equipment
- extend opportunities for older and more able children to develop mathematical and large physical skills
- ensure that the curriculum is monitored and evaluated in sufficient detail so that all areas of learning included in the curriculum.

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.