

Castle View Private Day Nursery

Blind Lane, Chester le Street, Durham, DH3 4AF



Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

3 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team and staff have an outstanding knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have an excellent understanding of how children learn and use a range of inspiring teaching strategies and resources to support children as they make rapid progress towards the early learning goals.
- Positive caring attachments are evident between children and staff. Parent partnerships are excellent and staff work closely with parents and understand children's needs very well. As a consequence, children are independent and active learners, exhibiting very high levels of self-esteem.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect children. Stringent safeguarding and child protection procedures ensure all children are kept extremely safe within the nursery.
- Rigorous self-evaluation and a targeted programme of professional development ensure that all staff consistently improve their already excellent understanding and practice.
- The management team brings great stability to the nursery. The owner and manager are very 'hands on' in the nursery and they are inspirational leaders. Staff respond very well to their enthusiasm and they work closely with them to constantly meet children's needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already excellent partnership with parents, for example, by offering opportunities for them to see first-hand, the types of experiences that children take part in.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager, held discussions with staff and spoke with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's development records, planning documentation, the nursery's self-evaluation form, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery and a range of other records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection.

Inspector

Lynne Pope

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

In-depth observations and assessments are used to identify children's starting points, ongoing progress and next steps in learning. This ensures that each child's assessments are accurate and as up to date as possible, and that they are being appropriately challenged at every opportunity. Children are inquisitive and active learners, as they investigate the resources. Staff support their play, following children's lead while making the most of opportunities to develop learning. Staff are very effective in using open-ended questions. For example, they ask children aged between two and three years if they can find the small jug when playing in the sand tray. Children find the right size and problem solve as they work out which size jug works better to get some water. Parents' views regarding their children's learning are extremely well incorporated so that the individual needs of all children are superbly met. There is room to introduce opportunities for parents to come in and see first-hand the activities that children become involved in.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff are friendly and approachable and the environment is calm and inviting. A key person is assigned for each child and a buddy takes over in their absence. This supports children's emotional well-being and a mutual sharing of information with parents. Staff enthusiastically promote healthy lifestyles and the importance of exercise through daily access to the outdoor area. Children explore in safety in designated play areas and have access to an extensive nature trail. Children dig in the soil and transport the bark in a bucket to a toy cement mixer. Discussions are held while they examine a worm and children demonstrate their sharing skills as they pass it around. Stringent hygiene is re-enforced as staff ask children what they must do when they have finished touching the worm. Children know they need to wash their hands because they are dirty. As a result, children are confident to share their views and talk happily about what they are doing using an increasingly wide vocabulary.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

There is a highly qualified, well-established committed staff team, with the majority having worked at the nursery for a long time. The manager holds supervisions, appraisals, peer observations and staff meetings. This enables her to sharply focus evaluations of staff practice to identify their strengths and areas for further development. Well-targeted, professional development always focuses on the impact for children. For example, staff attendance on training about outdoor provisions and possibilities prompted them to add bark and more crates for children to use in imaginative play. The manager has highly effective monitoring systems. These ensure that planning and assessment are consistent and precise. Any gaps or delays in children's progress are quickly identified and necessary targeted support provided. This includes working with other professionals to identify effective teaching strategies. Children's move to school is exceptionally well supported, which supports them emotionally.

Setting details

Unique reference number	314076
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1004719
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	150
Number of children on roll	200
Name of provider	Castleview Recruitment/Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	3 March 2010
Telephone number	0191 3881118

Castle View Private Day Nursery was registered in 1997. The nursery employs 39 members of childcare staff. Of these, 34 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one with Early Years Professional status and two members of staff with Qualified Teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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