

Pixley Dell Nursery

8 Coulson Street, Spennymoor, County Durham, DL16 7RS



Inspection date

6 February 2015

Previous inspection date

11 March 2010

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Good | 2 |
| How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend | | Good | 2 |
| The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children | | Good | 2 |
| The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision | | Good | 2 |
| The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings | | | |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are engaged and motivated in their play. Staff provide them with a variety of fun, challenging and enjoyable activities.
- The quality of teaching is consistently good. Staff use skilful questioning techniques to encourage children to think critically and creatively. As a result, children are very eager to learn.
- Staff are committed and enthusiastic in their approach to caring for children. Consequently, children develop a strong sense of belonging and become confident, independent learners who enjoy their time at the provision.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Good-quality information is shared to promote children's learning and development successfully.
- Staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Consequently, children are provided with a safe, welcoming and secure environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are sometimes missed opportunities to extend children's learning through even more effective use of the outdoor environment, particularly for those children who prefer to be outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the use of the outdoor environment for a range of learning activities, so that children who prefer to learn outside can do so.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and outside and staff interaction with children.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector examined a representative sample of children's records, policies and procedures, and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide stimulating activities across the seven areas of learning, to motivate all ages of children. Children delight in sharing stories in the cosy book 'cave', with staff. They discuss the author, illustrator and description on the cover of the book. They eagerly suggest rhyming words to complete the story and join in excitedly with familiar songs and rhymes. As a result, children's early literacy skills are developing well. Good use of open-ended questions by staff supports children to develop problem-solving skills and communication skills. For example, staff ask, 'How many do we need?', to challenge children to successfully set out the appropriate crockery and cutlery for lunch. Staff use thorough observations and assessments to check children's progress and regularly share this information with parents. They ensure that parents contribute to children's assessments from the start. As a result, staff know children well and plan effectively to meet their needs and interests. Children are making good progress and are well prepared for the move to their next stage in learning.

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

Staff create very attractive displays, including photographs of family members and words from children's home languages. This fosters a sense of belonging and awareness of differences. Children have extremely secure relationships with the staff. Staff frequently praise them and consistently model good behaviour. They encourage even the youngest children to develop independence skills, for example, by hanging up their own coats on pegs. As a result, children develop positive attitudes to others and to learning. In the outdoor play area, children exercise energetically and build obstacle courses with crates, large bricks and hoops. The youngest children wear waterproof clothing and splash happily in shallow water, explore the mud and climb steps. Consequently, children make good progress with their physical development and their emotional well-being is promoted. However, staff do not always provide as wide a range of learning activities outside as they do indoors, particularly for those children who prefer to be outdoors.

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

Staff have a secure knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They apply a range of robust policies well to ensure that children play in a safe environment. The management team are committed to continuous improvement of the already good teaching and learning. For example, managers ensure that staff members share good practice from training with the team. As a result, all staff benefit as they update their knowledge. The management team use the views of parents, staff and children effectively to inform the thorough self-evaluation process. Strong partnerships with parents and other settings help to promote continuity of learning and care for children at home and in preparation for the move to school.

Setting details

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Unique reference number | 508263 |
| Local authority | Durham |
| Inspection number | 869350 |
| Type of provision | |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 0 - 8 |
| Total number of places | 43 |
| Number of children on roll | 45 |
| Name of provider | Northumbrian Trust Day Nurseries Limited |
| Date of previous inspection | 11 March 2010 |
| Telephone number | 01388 816299 |

Pixley Dell Nursery was registered in 2000. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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