

Ushaw Moor Childcare

Durham Road, Ushaw Moor, Durham, County Durham, DH7 7LF



Inspection date

18 February 2015

Previous inspection date

23 April 2012

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

- Staff make good use of a range of strategies, such as signing, to support the development of children's communication and language skills.
- All children, including those with additional needs, are supported to make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff are fully committed and enthusiastic in their approach to caring for children. As a result, relationships between children and staff are good. Children are confident learners who enjoy their time at the provision.
- The staff team values the diversity of families with children attending the nursery, and within the wider community.
- Partnerships with parents are strong and their comments are valued. Good quality information is shared to promote children's learning and development successfully.
- The management and staff team are committed to continuous improvement. Good systems are in place to monitor the quality of the provision for children and their families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Additional reading materials, that meet children's interests and add to the already extensive selection of books, are not easily accessible.
- Children do not have sufficient opportunities to perfect their skills in balancing and climbing, to support their ongoing physical development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- reorganise the book area to make it even more inviting and stimulating for children, by improving access to additional forms of reading materials relating to children's interests
- provide more opportunities for children to balance and climb, both indoors and outside, to support their physical development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children playing inside and in the outdoor play area.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, the staff and the children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and expressed in the parent survey.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, the planning documentation, and the systems for the monitoring of children's progress.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the policies and procedures, and the documented self-evaluation systems.

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 use their expert knowledge well to provide a wide range of learning activities across the seven areas of learning. As a result, all children develop skills in readiness for the next stage in their learning. For example, children enjoy listening to staff read books to them. They work together to create colourful displays about the stories they hear. Children join in enthusiastically with words and actions to their favourite songs and rhymes. Staff introduce words such as juicy, to describe foods as children taste ingredients and make their own pizzas. They skilfully ask questions and allow plenty of time for children to answer. Consequently, children are making good progress with their communication and language skills. However, the quiet area lacks alternative reading materials, such as factual books, magazines and comics that help expand on children's interests. Staff work closely and share information with parents, other professionals and the other settings children attend. As a result, they continuously support children's development.

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

Staff use the highly effective key-person system successfully to support children's emotional well-being, confidence and self-esteem. Staff teach children to be very independent in their self-care skills. Children follow good hygiene routines and eat healthy snacks and meals. They learn to keep themselves safe. For example, staff remind children how to use knives safely when preparing food. Staff ensure the environment is safe for children to play. Children access a wide selection of toys and equipment and, in most cases, play areas are stimulating and interesting. However, there are limited opportunities for children to be challenged to improve their balancing and climbing skills. Staff are very positive role models. They frequently praise the children's efforts and achievements. For example, they display children's work to celebrate their skills in mark making. Staff encourage children to tolerate each other, share and take turns. They display photographs of family events, such as weddings and parties. Consequently, staff create opportunities to discuss and promote the diversity of their community.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities under the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They benefit from regular training to update their knowledge. Consequently, staff act appropriately to safeguard children. Careful monitoring ensures that planning, observations and assessments, including progress checks for children between the ages of two and three years, are accurately completed. Staff identify and target any gaps in children's learning. As a result, the team ensure all children continue to make good progress from their starting points. Systems for evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the provision are in place and take into account the views of parents. The management team have continuously addressed areas for improvement. For example, staff now provide a range of activity packs for families to support the continuity of learning from nursery to home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317233
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	856832
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	49
Name of provider	Ushaw Moor Pre-school Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2012
Telephone number	0191 3739198

The Ushaw Moor Childcare facility was registered in 2005. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff; all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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