

Coundon and Leeholme Early Years Centre LTD

Victoria Lane Health Centre, Victoria Lane, BISHOP AUUCKLAND, County Durham,
DL14 8NP



Inspection date

21 May 2015

Previous inspection date

7 April 2011

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

- The well-qualified staff team demonstrate their skills by effectively working with all children, families and other health and educational professionals. This ensures that all children's needs are well met so that they make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children are extremely well prepared for school or their next stage in learning. The highly successful links with schools mean that children are emotionally and physically ready.
- Safeguarding children takes high priority as policies and procedures are effectively implemented and strictly adhered to. Children are successfully taught how to identify hazards and assess their own risks. Consequently, they are kept safe and well protected.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Parents are welcome at any time and are kept fully informed of how their children are developing. Staff invite them to share photographs and experiences from home, which contributes to shared learning and continuity.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The environment, particularly outdoors, does not display many labels or number signs. Although the writing area is well resourced, writing tools are not freely available in other areas where children play.
- Staff do not make the best possible use of a wide range of resources that reflect real-life experiences, to extend children's imaginary play and their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's learning of early reading, writing and mathematics, for example, by introducing more signs, labels and numbers, and providing writing tools in more areas of play
- extend children's opportunities for imaginary play by making better use of natural and real life resources, such as fruit, vegetables, bottles and packets, to develop role-play areas further inside and outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises, inside and outdoors, and talked with staff and children, observing interactions throughout the day.
- The inspector checked evidence of the staff qualifications and the suitability of all those involved in the nursery.
- The inspector viewed a wide range of documents, including relevant policies and procedures, children's learning files, planning and assessment documents and development plans.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents, taking their views into account.

Inspector

Janice Caryl

Inspection findings

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

All children make good progress, relative to their individual needs. Information is effectively gathered from parents at the outset. This provides a good starting point for staff to build on and extend children's curiosity and learning. Children thoroughly enjoy dressing up and playing outside in the role-play area. Children mix soil and water together and make cakes out of mud. They use sticks, stones, spoons and spatulas. However, there are few real-life items, such as food and empty packets, to make the area even more realistic. Children develop good communication skills because staff are active listeners, ask thought-provoking questions and invite children to chat and learn new vocabulary. Children who are less confident have opportunities to use pictures to express their wishes and make choices. There are some good occasions for children to make marks and develop their writing skills. However, there are fewer chances where children learn that writing is for a purpose. For example, there are not always writing tools placed in other areas of the nursery. Furthermore, the environment is not wholly rich in print or number.

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

New children are supported well when they enter nursery and as they progress through the age groups. The babies and younger children enjoy a calming, nurturing and yet suitably challenging environment, supported by skilled, sensitive staff. Resources are of good quality. Babies and younger children enjoy lots of sensory play and access to toys that ignite their curiosity. Older children enjoy being given specific responsibilities, such as identifying hazards in the outdoor environment and setting tables at lunchtime. During the sociable mealtimes, children serve themselves and clear away at the end of the meal, developing independence skills. Children are taught the importance of developing good hygiene routines. Staff teach children about washing their hands at certain times and the reasons why it is important. All staff and visitors wear aprons when in the dining area to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. This reinforces the message about hygiene and keeps children even safer.

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

The manager has a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She and the staff implement them well and ensure the educational programme is suitable, challenging and motivating. All staff have regular supervision meetings where their personal and professional development is discussed. This results in a well-established programme of professional development, enabling staff to continually improve their practice and childcare knowledge. Safe recruitment procedures ensure staff are suitable to care for children. Effective self-evaluation takes account of the views of staff, children and parents. These views are fed into the nursery's year-on-year development plans, which help drive continuous improvements that enhance children's achievements over time. Staff have excellent relationships with outside agencies.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY349735
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	863295
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	71
Name of provider	Coundon and Leeholme Early Years Centre LTD
Date of previous inspection	7 April 2011
Telephone number	01388 660365

Coundon and Leeholme Early Years Centre Ltd was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, the manager holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, the deputy holds level 5, one member of staff holds a level 4 qualification and eight hold level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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