

Riverside Nursery

Riverside Centre, Minton Lane, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE29 6DQ



Inspection date

9 June 2015

Previous inspection date

2 March 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 benefit from numerous opportunities for outdoor play during the day. Children have space to explore, hide, develop their imagination and learn to take manageable risks.
- Staff skilfully help children develop their independence and social skills in preparation for future learning, such as in school.
- Children are effectively safeguarded. The managers successfully implement secure safeguarding procedures. Staff demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of what to do should they have a concern over a child's welfare.
- Very effective partnership with parents ensure that all children benefit from a coordinated approach to their learning. Parents are kept well informed and contribute to assessments of children's achievements.
- Staff work closely with other professionals and effectively follow guidance to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff quickly identify where children need additional help, to ensure they make continual progress in their development.
- Staff use positive strategies and work with parents to support children in managing their own behaviour. Consequently, children are warm, caring and trusting of each other.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff working with the babies and younger children do not consistently provide a wide variety of sensory and exploratory activities and experiences for children to independently access.
- Occasionally, there are missed opportunities for leaders and managers to fully scrutinise staff performance, to ensure staff are always fully supported in improving their practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enrich and build on the babies and younger children's natural curiosity and investigative impulses, for example, by providing more natural sensory activities that are available all of the time, such as sand, water, soil or bark
- strengthen performance management, for example, by having leaders and managers working alongside staff more regularly, checking routines, resources and children's files.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises indoors and out, talked with staff and children and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the qualifications and suitability of all staff that work in the nursery.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the assistant manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of documents including children's files and assessment records, relevant policies and procedures and the nursery's self-evaluation form and action plan.
- The inspector spoke with parents and carers on the day, 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

The staff team are well qualified. This helps to ensure that overall children receive a broad and balanced range of activities that meet their needs and interests. Staff working with the older children give them time to experiment and use their creative skills. Children are taught to adapt natural resources, such as twigs, when making kites. They use tape to bind the materials together, smiling and laughing as they compare their own with others. Staff effectively teach the two-year-old children to develop their skills in shape, space and measurement. Activities are interesting and challenging. Children take delight in playing with the parachute. They weigh and measure potatoes, comparing weight and size. The babies and younger children enjoy playing in the sand and painting. They take great delight in making their own play dough. Staff give children time to explore and discover the properties of the flour, water and lentils. Children enjoy mixing, tasting and moulding the mixture together. However, the number of sensory activities available for children to independently access is sometimes narrow. This means that they are not always able to freely access and use their emerging investigative skills as a matter of free choice.

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

Children are very confident and self-motivated. The effective key person arrangements mean that children and their families receive individualised care and support. Children are chatty and enjoy sharing their experiences with staff and visitors. This demonstrates how safe and secure they feel as their emotional needs are well met. The environment is spacious both indoors and out. Children learn about the importance of taking regular physical exercise as they 'wake up and shake up' at the beginning of the sessions. The cook has personalised meetings with parents to ensure that the dietary needs of their children are always met. This instils confidence in parents that their children are consistently kept safe. Meals are home cooked, nutritious and promote healthy eating.

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

The leaders and managers have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They constantly reflect on their practice and have a strong desire to improve. The managers are responsible for checking the practice in all the rooms and examining children's files. As a result, the quality of teaching is good and children's progress in the learning and development is effectively tracked. This helps to identify where further support and early intervention is needed to help children make even better progress. However, on occasions, there are lapses in the consistency and timing of performance management opportunities. This means that sometimes staff are not always closely observed to help them improve their practice even further. All the staff have a training plan that is regularly reviewed and discussed at supervision meetings. The managers comment on how recent training on attachments has had a positive impact on staff practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	310201
Local authority	North Tyneside
Inspection number	855238
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	100
Number of children on roll	238
Name of provider	North Tyneside Council
Date of previous inspection	2 March 2012
Telephone number	0191 6438868

Riverside Nursery was registered in 1999. The nursery employs 36 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, six staff hold a relevant qualification at level 5, one holds a level 4 qualification and 24 staff hold early years qualifications at level 3. This includes two staff with Early Years Professional status and one with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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