

Busy Bears Day Nursery

Fields View, Autonn Stile, Bearpark, Co Durham, DH7 7AA



Inspection date

30 June 2015

Previous inspection date

28 October 2014

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		Outstanding	1
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 offer children a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities to learn. As a result, all children are motivated, engaged and eager to investigate the environment around them.
- Well qualified practitioners are adept at identifying and reviewing children's interests, strengths and individual needs. They adapt activities and resources to meet these ever changing needs. This, alongside high quality teaching, ensures all children make good or better progress from their starting points.
- Parents benefit from extremely strong partnerships with staff at all levels. They are consulted on all aspects of their child's care and learning. Many also take part in opportunities to be involved in their child's learning both in the setting and at home.
- Leaders are focused on constantly improving the quality of teaching. This ensures that staff receive the individualised support and training they need to reflect on and continually improve practice. As a result, the quality of teaching across the setting is often outstanding.
- Children are happy, confident, independent learners due to the secure attachments they have developed with their 'special carers'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- During free play time there are not always sufficient resources available to fully support older children's attempts at independent writing.
- On occasion, a small number of staff do not consistently follow some of the nursery's policies and procedures.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- Further enhance the learning environment for older children through the provision of additional resources that support their attempts at early independent writing during free play time
- Further strengthen practice across the nursery, particularly in relation to the consistent implementation of policies and procedures by all practitioners.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all six base rooms inside as well as the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the manager and other members of the setting's senior leadership team.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision and a range of other documentation, including policies, procedures, self-evaluation and improvement planning documents.

Inspector

Jayne Utting HMI

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an excellent understanding of the needs and interests of individual children as well as an in depth knowledge of how they learn. They use these effectively to provide a rich, stimulating learning environment which both engages and challenges all children. Staff successfully nurture babies' attempts at early communication by copying the sounds they make and repeating back single words. Older children benefit immensely from a range of methods introduced to encourage interactions and enhance language skills. For example, children are encouraged to use sticks to form shapes and letters. Staff prompt children to discuss previous learning and to ask questions to help them complete the task. Checks on children's understanding and learning are used very effectively to inform planning. Any gaps in achievement are identified swiftly, with high quality interventions planned to accelerate children's learning, so helping them catch up. As a result, all children are challenged appropriately and make excellent progress in their learning.

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

Staff are good role models and teach children to listen to one another, be kind and build strong friendships. Children are encouraged to become increasingly independent, serving their own food and pouring drinks. An award winning menu helps children learn to enjoy a wide range of food and to make healthy choices. Children's outdoor play experiences are significantly enhanced through regular, planned excursions to nearby woods. This, alongside opportunities to learn new sports ensures children's enjoyment of play in the fresh air is well supported. Children move up through nursery and on into school with confidence. This is because staff take effective steps to ensure children are well prepared for these changes, including through excellent links with schools. The environment is well planned to meet the needs of the wide age range of children who attend. However, there are times when children's early attempts at independent writing are hindered by a lack of readily available resources from which to copy letters and numbers.

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

The ability of the senior leadership team to accurately identify the quality of practice across the nursery is a strength. Effective arrangements for recruiting staff, regular supervision and checking staff performance ensures consistently high quality practice, particularly in relation to observation, assessment and planning. Leaders monitor staff closely and any development points are quickly identified and tackled through targeted training and support, including mentoring. Children's wellbeing is a high priority and taken into account in all areas of the day-to-day running of the nursery. The management team work hard to ensure that all staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities regarding child protection. However, a small minority of staff have not followed some nursery procedures consistently. Effective steps have been taken to address this, with lessons learnt further strengthening practice across the setting, particularly in relation to supervision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350029
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1018091
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	171
Number of children on roll	635
Name of provider	ELG Developements Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 October 2014
Telephone number	0191 373 5500

Busy Bears Day Nursery is owned and managed by a limited company and has been registered since March 2007. The nursery operates from purpose-built premises directly off the main road through Bearpark village in Durham. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three, and four-year-old children. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It is open from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays and the week in between Christmas and New Year. There are currently 635 children on roll. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are 53 members of staff working directly with the children, most of whom hold early years qualifications from level 3. Four members of staff have a level 2 qualification and four have Early Years Professional status. The setting receives support and advice from the local authority.

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