

House of Eden

Aycliffe Village Primary School, North Terrace, Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6LG



Inspection date	13 August 2015
Previous inspection date	28 August 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Leaders and staff are a highly effective team with a wide range of knowledge, skills and expertise which they use exceptionally well to support children's learning and development. Leaders inspire staff to strive to do their very best for children and make sure they are making the best possible progress while at the nursery.
- Excellent partnership working is established with parents and a wide range of other professionals. This means children receive swift and timely support where needed, both at home and at nursery, to help them catch up and progress quickly.
- Children greatly benefit from having free access to an exciting and challenging outdoor learning area. They choose to spend a lot of time playing outdoors and staff are highly skilled at making sure their learning and development is fully supported as they do so.
- The safety and well-being of children is extremely well promoted. Leaders and staff are very confident in their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children and meticulously follow the excellent policies and procedures in place. They cleverly support children to develop their understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy during their play and learning.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery, stating staff are caring and their children are safe, happy and settled. They value how well staff help children quickly settle into nursery, particularly those who struggle with separation.
- The quality of teaching is exceptional. Staff are astutely aware of every child's interests, and where they need to challenge their learning and development next. They provide play and learning opportunities that excite and motivate children to learn and consequently, as parents confirm, make excellent progress.
- Excellent arrangements are in place to make sure children are well prepared and fully supported for their move on to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure parents of children very new to the setting feel as fully informed about their child's development as they do about their care and well-being, by sharing initial key moments in the first few weeks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of activities in each of the rooms as well as the outdoor play area.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the managers of the provision.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken with on the day of 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 and procedures.

Inspector

Rachael Flesher

Inspection findings

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

Staff quickly set about making sure children get all the support they need, both at home and in the setting, to help them make the best possible progress. Using their excellent knowledge of the children, staff plan a wide range of exciting and motivating activities. Through careful monitoring, they ensure all children experience these opportunities and that they fully support their learning and development in all areas. All staff understand the intended learning of each activity and the identified next goals for each child, and match their exemplary teaching accordingly. In addition, staff skilfully follow the children's lead and consequently plans can change in an instant. For example, as children's excitement in collecting apples outdoors grows, staff abandon the planned activity indoors. However, the intended learning around exploring textures and extending children's vocabulary is skilfully incorporated as they investigate the apples instead. This leads to the children preparing edible apples for snack and having apple crumble for lunch.

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

Staff take time to carefully identify and understand the needs and interests of all children. Staff use this very well to devise a unique care plan for each child. This helps staff form extremely strong relationships with children so they quickly settle and are ready to learn. Staff have high expectations of children and teach them how to care for themselves. Together they wash the apples they have collected from the garden and talk about how a rotten apple may make their tummies poorly. Even the youngest children prepare their own snack, hang their bags and coats and lead their own play and learning. Children have lots of exciting opportunities to learn about, and care for living things including tadpoles, caterpillars and a family of baby giant snails. Staff skilfully support children to listen to, respect and value each other's contributions in play and discussions. They also praise children's efforts, promoting their self-esteem. As a result, children play exceptionally well together, are forming strong friendships and are extremely confident and independent learners.

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

Leaders and staff meticulously monitor everything they do to make sure they are having a highly positive impact on children. Where any gaps are identified, leaders and staff immediately set about addressing these. For example, when checking children's progress, staff noticed gaps in children's mathematical development. They reviewed and improved their provision, quality of teaching and planning accordingly. A stay and play session for parents was also provided. Together, staff and teachers from the school helped parents understand what they can do at home to support their child. The gaps quickly narrowed as a result. Well trained leaders and staff use each other's excellent knowledge and expertise to improve practice and provision further. Leaders and staff have an exceptional understanding of their legal requirements and take their delegated responsibilities extremely seriously to ensure children's safety, good health and well-being at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY301405
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1005276
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	House of Eden Limited
Date of previous inspection	28 August 2014
Telephone number	01325 313513

House of Eden registered in 2005 and is on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It operates from within Aycliffe Village Primary School in Aycliffe, County Durham and has an enclosed outdoor area. The setting employs six staff, including the manager, to work directly with the children. Of these, four hold relevant qualifications at level 3, one at level 4 and one at level 5. The setting is open each weekday, from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year.

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