

Explorers

Fountain Head Business Park, Etherley, BISHOP AUCKLAND, County Durham, DL14 0LZ



Inspection date	10 December 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff promote children's development by providing them with enjoyable play and learning opportunities. This supports children to make good progress. Children are enthusiastic learners who eagerly explore their environment and concentrate for extended periods of time.
- There is a very relaxed, homely and welcoming environment throughout the nursery. Children form very close relationships with staff who look after them. This contributes towards children feeling safe and emotionally secure.
- Children behave well and they receive good support from staff. Children learn to share as they play together, which creates an extremely positive atmosphere throughout the nursery.
- Staff establish high quality relationships with parents. Staff share children's progress with them and welcome feedback. This helps staff to meet the needs of children. Parents speak highly of the nursery and state they are well informed about their children's care and learning.
- The provider implements effective procedures to support staff to understand their roles. She promotes professional development opportunities, in particular, through regular supervision and training. This helps to improve the quality of care and learning children receive.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not promote children's thinking and reasoning skills effectively.
- The provider and acting manager do not yet check the progress made by different groups of children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to develop their thinking and reasoning skills
- make more use of information gained from assessments to check the progress made by different groups of children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the acting nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the acting nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lynne Pope

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff assess and minimise risks successfully. Training and regular discussions help to ensure that all staff have a good understanding of the procedures to follow to protect a child's welfare. The provider follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. The well-qualified staff team work together very well. They are developing their confidence to observe each other's practice to develop their own knowledge and skills. Staff aspire to improve. They seek the views of parents, children and others and use the information they gain to effectively improve their provision and practice. They are particularly excited about developing a new outdoor classroom for children and an outdoor play area for babies. Effective monitoring ensures that the planning and assessment process is consistent and that children's skills and abilities are accurately identified.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how young children learn. Observations and assessments provide a clear overview of what children can do and what they need to learn next. Staff take into account children's interests and provide opportunities for them to engage in their chosen activities. Planned activities link closely to children's next steps in learning. Children's speaking and listening skills are particularly well supported. Staff model speech very clearly. They use strategies that promote children's confidence and ability to communicate with others. Babies explore their environment with confidence and enjoy looking at the different sized balls that have been provided. Older children learn about how to mix play dough and play enthusiastically with it. Staff take the opportunity to support them in learning about different sizes as they make shapes. In pre-school, children become engrossed in listening to stories and staff introduce new words and help them learn what these mean.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy carrying out tasks for themselves to develop their independence. They confidently self-register when they arrive and older children help to serve their own meals. Staff provide good opportunities for children to enjoy daily physical activity in the outdoor area and they visit the onsite farm regularly. Here, children learn about the different animals and this helps them to understand about the natural world around them. Children's good health is promoted well. When out walking, they discuss the effects walking up a hill has on their bodies. Snacks and meals are healthy and nutritious. During imaginative play outdoors, staff take the opportunity to reinforce their understanding of staying safe. They talk about a fire and what to do if it gets out of hand. Moves between rooms and on to school are supported well. This helps children to feel safe and secure.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. Staff seek support when this is needed to help close any gaps in learning. Children are acquiring the skills and dispositions they need for future learning and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484958
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1006869
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	41
Number of children on roll	71
Name of provider	Jenna Louise Whitaker
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01388833637

Explorers was registered in 2015. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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