

High Coniscliffe Pre-school

High Coniscliffe Church Hall, High Coniscliffe, DL2 2LR



Inspection date

21 June 2016

Previous inspection date

6 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager and staff have made highly effective changes since their last inspection to raise the quality of their practice and provision to the highest levels. Exceptionally detailed improvement plans that take account of parents and children's views are very clearly focused. This helps to ensure that children's care, safety and learning are highly prioritised in all aspects of their work.
- Staff work in a commendable manner with other professionals. Their meticulous attention to working in partnership with many support agencies and parents ensures that all children are superbly supported in their all-round development and overall well-being. This includes children who have special educational needs or disability.
- An exceptional key-person system fully supports children's individual preferences. Children form exceedingly close and trusting relationships with committed and dedicated staff who in turn, respond to their every need. This contributes towards children being exceptionally happy, settled and assured.
- Children are supported to attend to their own personal needs and they learn very good independence skills. They choose from a wide selection of healthy foods at snack time, learn how to spread butter onto a cracker and pour their own drinks.
- There is a strong partnership with parents. Parents speak highly of the service provided and feel extremely well supported. Staff successfully engage parents in children's learning and in meaningful discussions about their development.
- The manager provides an insightful programme of performance management that contributes significantly to the exceptionally strong quality of practice. She carries out regular and purposeful supervision and observations of staff and volunteers. This helps to ensure that the excellent staff team shares her vision, determination and passion.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the excellent opportunities for children who prefer to play outside, enabling them to follow their interests.

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 pre-school deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- 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 outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff give child protection significant priority in all areas of practice and have a robust and in-depth knowledge of how to report concerns about children's welfare. Staff are vigilant about children's safety. Recruitment procedures are extremely robust. Comprehensive risk assessments are effectively underpinned by daily safety checks and contribute to ensuring that possible risks are effectively minimised. The manager monitors the educational programmes very effectively and this helps her to identify any delays or gaps in children's learning. For example, it was identified that children learning to manage their feelings and behaviour was not covered enough. New resources have been introduced to support children's learning and they are effectively encouraged to share and be kind to others. Staff are dedicated in their ongoing pursuit of purposeful training and the benefits this brings to children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are very keen and eager to learn. Staff interact with children extremely well to skilfully promote their learning and development. They have comprehensive knowledge of each child and successfully use children's interests to provide fascinating learning opportunities. For example, children's interest in jigsaws prompts staff to help them learn about counting. Staff promote children's communication and thinking skills exceptionally well. For example, they make excellent use of skilful questioning to help children form opinions, describe their experiences and express themselves. Staff understand how to support children in learning how to pronounce words correctly. They repeat words and help children to hear the beginning and end of words. Children explore the different sounds that instruments make. They press keys to make sounds and staff talk about favourite sounds and whether they are loud or soft.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The exceptionally stimulating environment gives children abundant opportunities for active play. Children develop their own ideas and become deeply engaged in their play. For example, they experiment with different ways to use sand. They fill buckets and move the sand to the flags outdoors where they play with diggers and make patterns in the sand. Staff have plans to further develop outdoor play to follow children's interests. Children learn about the world around them. They are fascinated as they observe how caterpillars develop and understand they will turn into butterflies. Staff work extremely closely with teachers in schools to ensure that transitions are smooth. Teachers visit the pre-school to meet the children and information is passed on about children's progress.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children have a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoy their learning activities. All children achieve extremely well. Challenging experiences provide children with excellent opportunities to freely explore resources, listen and concentrate. This helps children to be highly motivated to join in. They are very well supported to be ready for the next stages in their learning, including the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY386260
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	1028364
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	13
Name of registered person	The Non-Profit Preschool Alliance Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP528660
Date of previous inspection	6 June 2013
Telephone number	07817 413138

High Coniscliffe Pre-school was registered in 2008. The pre-school employs three members of childcare staff, supported by a volunteer. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager who has qualified teacher status. The pre-school opens Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.15am to 2.45pm during term time. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

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