

Appletree Nursery

The Pavilion, Main Street, Grenoside, Sheffield, S35 8PR



Inspection date	5 October 2016
Previous inspection date	8 May 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Children are safe and secure in this welcoming nursery. Staff are deployed effectively, ratio requirements are met and children are supervised very well.
- Staff support parents and children well through times of change. They hold meetings for parents when their children are getting ready for the move on to school. They make sure everyone works together to maintain continuity in children's learning.
- Experienced and well-qualified staff are skilled in supporting children who have special educational needs or disability. They work in partnership with a range of professionals to carefully plan for children's further progression.
- Children develop self-confidence during their time at the nursery. They go out into their community and visit the local garden centre and post office. Children learn about people who help them.
- Children's behaviour is good because they know what is expected of them and take part in deciding the nursery rules. Staff are good role models who support children well to learn how to stay safe and manage their feelings.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of staff's practice does not yet focus precisely on identifying how teaching skills can be further developed to help children make more rapid progress in their learning.
- Staff do not involve parents sufficiently in assessing the starting points for children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help staff to further develop their teaching skills in order to increase the potential to achieve excellent outcomes for all children
- gather more detailed information from parents when children first start, so that they can contribute fully to their child's initial assessment on entry.

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 a senior member of staff and the early years teacher.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager, early years teacher, deputy manager and a senior member of staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the policies and procedures 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

Jane Tucker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The nursery is led by an ambitious manager who, together with her team, is committed to providing a high-quality service for children and parents. Staff maintain a highly professional approach, work well as a team and are enthusiastic and positive in their role. Children are provided with enjoyable learning experiences. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager has robust procedures for recruitment and checking the ongoing suitability of staff. Staff attend child protection training and have a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They confidently explain the reporting procedures in place for if they have a concern about a child in their care. In addition, regular team meetings provide opportunities for staff to keep abreast of changing legislation.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate good teaching skills. They plan activities based on children's interests and what they need to learn next. Staff adapt play where needed to help ensure all children are included. They provide good opportunities for children to enhance their communication skills and they enrich this learning with signs and actions during activities. Older children happily take part in group activities. They show their concentration skills as they listen to sounds and call out the name of the animal they hear. Staff skilfully ask questions to build on what children already know. They give children time to process questions, allowing them to demonstrate their thinking skills. Babies and toddlers enjoy the sensory experience of manipulating paint with their hands and use a range of tools to make marks on paper.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help to prepare children emotionally for their future education. They invite teachers to visit the nursery to meet the children and share information about their achievements. Children practise changing into their sports kit ready for physical exercise. This helps them to know what to expect at school and to adapt quickly to new routines. Children have plenty of opportunities for fresh air and to be active. They ride wheeled toys and enjoy making marks on large pieces of paper in the open woodland space surrounding the nursery. Staff promote children's health and well-being effectively. Mealtimes are organised well. Children follow good hygiene procedures, which include washing their hands before food and brushing their teeth.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress in their learning and development. They are gaining key skills they will need for their move on to school. Babies and toddlers develop good hand-to-eye coordination as they pick up small pine cones to paint. All children are confident and are becoming increasingly independent. Children play cooperatively alongside each other and are learning how to form good relationships with their friends.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY368525
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	1074244
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 - 8
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Appletree Childcare (Sheffield) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527549
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2013
Telephone number	01142 571 427

Appletree Nursery was registered in 2008. The nursery employs 29 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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