

Amble and Coquet Children's Centre Childcare Provision



Amble and Coquet Children's Centre, Bondicar Road, Hadston, MORPETH,
Northumberland, NE65 9SR

Inspection date

24 November 2016

Previous inspection date

6 February 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

- The senior management team is ambitious and motivated. It seeks and acts upon the views of parents, children and other professionals. This means that a range of views is taken account of when setting clear targets for continuous improvement.
- Parents value the service that is offered and are very complimentary about the progress their children make and the supportive and approachable staff.
- Children form secure and trusting attachments with their key person. Staff work closely with parents to ensure that children's well-being is given high priority and, therefore, their emotional needs are well met.
- Staff gently remind and support younger children to tidy up, offering praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always successful in ensuring that all parents are fully aware of the plans for their children's future learning.
- Occasionally, some staff miss opportunities to sustain conversations so that children's vocabulary is increased and their thinking skills are suitably enhanced.
- Staff do not always provide young children with sufficient resources for them to use individually or in small groups to help maintain their involvement and motivation.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on information sharing with parents to ensure that all parents are aware of the plans for their children's future learning
- enhance staff's skills in the use of questions and ways that encourage children to think and engage them in sustained conversations
- make sure that sufficient resources are available for young children to use individually or in small groups to help maintain their involvement and motivation in their learning.

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 playgroup manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the centre manager and playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the setting's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures. They attend training to keep their knowledge up to date. As a result, they are well aware of who to contact if they are concerned about a child in their care. Robust recruitment and induction procedures are used to check that adults caring for children are suitable to do so. The manager works directly with staff and is successful in supporting and motivating them. She holds supervision meetings with all staff to discuss improvements and identify training needs. The senior management team keeps a close check on the progress of individual children to good effect. Staff develop positive relationships with parents and generally share information well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations and knowledge of individual children to plan enjoyable activities and experiences. Assessments are monitored closely to ensure all children make good progress. Overall, staff offer good support to children and encourage their language and social skills well. For example, children come together for group singing sessions. Staff provide fun opportunities for children to develop early mathematical skills. Children look for the same colour of Wellington boots to make a pair. They thread pasta shells and count how many they have. Staff support children's early literacy skills well. For example, as they arrive children are helped to find their name card. Children enjoy books enhanced well through the lending library book scheme. They explore messy and creative play activities, such as shaving foam, and there are good opportunities for children to make marks throughout the whole learning environment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There are good procedures to help children make a smooth start to their time in playgroup. Children behave well. Staff sensitively remind them of expected behaviour and provide them with clear explanations. This helps children to play cooperatively with their friends and they are encouraged to share, take turns and be kind to one another. Staff promote children's knowledge and understanding of healthy lifestyles and good hygiene procedures. Children eagerly access the outdoor play area, where they have many opportunities to further their learning and participate in physical activities.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good rates of progress across all areas of their learning and development. Gaps in learning, including for those children receiving funding, are closing. Children make good progress in their mathematical skills. They regularly count different objects and compare them by colour, size and shape. Children gain confidence and are able to carry out self-care routines with minimal support from adults. They are creative and enjoy exploring and trying things for themselves. For example, they creatively explore with metal containers and bottles filled with pasta to make music and sounds. Children acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to succeed in their future education, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY451044
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	1066150
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Northumberland County Council
Registered person unique reference number	RP905983
Date of previous inspection	6 February 2013
Telephone number	01670 761 496

Amble and Coquet Children's Centre Childcare Provision was registered in 2012. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The playgroup opens Monday and Wednesday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm, term time only. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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