

Milestones Childcare

20 Verdant Way, SHEFFIELD, S5 6LE



Inspection date

12 December 2016

Previous inspection date

27 March 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

- Staff work closely with parents to support children's learning and development. They keep parents up to date with their children's progress and share ideas about how to extend their learning at home. Parents speak highly of the happy, caring and supportive team and how they enjoy the parent partnership days.
- Staff are good role models. Children learn to share and take turns and they are encouraged to use their manners. Children are provided with a good range of activities that helps them to understand about the cultures and beliefs of people in their own community and the wider world.
- The manager has developed a highly successful system to monitor and analyse the progress made by individual and specific groups of children. Staff work closely with other agencies to ensure any gaps in children's learning are addressed swiftly. This includes children who have special educational needs or disabilities.
- Managers and staff are enthusiastic and motivated. Managers monitor and support staff's performance through supervision, mentoring and weekly staff meetings. Staff take part in a range of training opportunities as part of their ongoing professional development. This helps to build on and improve the quality of their teaching skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully considered how the snack time routine occasionally interrupts children's play.
- The management team considers the views of parents, staff and children when evaluating the quality of the provision. However, targets for future development are not yet sharply focused on raising standards to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of snack time and enable children to become deeply involved in their activities
- sharpen the focus of targets for future development, in order to raise the standards to an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of all staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ruth Moore

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. Policies and procedures are robust and regular risk assessments help staff minimise potential hazards and promote children's safety. Staff ratios are met at all times. They are deployed appropriately and supervise children closely. All accidents are analysed to identify risks and how to minimise these. Management follows detailed procedures when recruiting and vetting staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff gather in-depth information from parents through home visits when children first start at the nursery. They carry out detailed observations and make accurate assessments to help them identify children's starting points and individual targets for each child to work towards. Staff provide a good range of activities and experiences that is appealing to children and promotes their progress in all areas of learning. Staff provide an environment that captures children's curiosity and encourages their imagination. Children enjoy writing letters to Santa and chasing the three bears away from the grotto. Staff give high priority to promoting children's communication and language skills. They use effective strategies to encourage children to communicate and learn new vocabulary. This includes gathering key words from home to support children who speak English as an additional language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong bonds and attachments with staff and show that they are happy and settled. Staff are very kind and caring towards the children and have an in-depth knowledge of each child's needs. Children are confident and enjoy their time in the welcoming and friendly nursery. Children have regular access to the well equipped and highly stimulating outdoor area to promote their physical well-being. They enjoy a variety of fresh foods for snack and a nutritious hot meal at lunchtime. Children enjoy carrying out tasks and demonstrate that they feel valued. They quickly learn to help tidy away and attend to their personal care needs, such as washing hands or toileting. Children are developing independence skills in readiness for school. For example, they serve themselves snack and pour their own drinks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress given their individual starting points. Children are active, inquisitive and show good levels of concentration. They enjoy listening to stories and happily look at books on their own. Children eagerly use pens, glue, wool and glitter and talk enthusiastically about the faces they are making. They are motivated and are developing the key skills that help to prepare them for their future learning when they move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY394256
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	1065379
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	79
Name of registered person	Milestones Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529009
Date of previous inspection	27 March 2013
Telephone number	01143 279686

Milestones Childcare was registered in 2009. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.30am until 4.30pm.

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