

Emerald Nursery and Children's Centre - Crook

11 North Terrace, Crook, County Durham, DL15 9AZ



Inspection date

22 December 2016

Previous inspection date

19 December 2012

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

- Leaders and staff have worked hard to address the recommendations from the previous inspection. For example, they have gathered the views of parents and children and created a highly resourced outdoor environment. Self-evaluation procedures are accurate. Action plans are in place which highlight specific areas for improvement.
- Staff provide exciting and challenging activities based on children's interests. They complete regular observations of children's play. Staff have created a space-themed story den and encourage children to join in with stories and songs. Children excitedly recall familiar sentences and create shadows on the wall using torches.
- Children are provided with excellent opportunities to develop an awareness of how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Role play areas are resourced with real fruit and vegetables which children use their senses to explore. Children are provided with healthy, nutritious foods and have access to fresh drinking water.
- Children make good progress. They use mathematical language as they play. Children interact with others and invent their own shape-sorting game, asking each other to find the different colour shapes. They use their counting skills when pouring cups of water and filling up jugs during water play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Leaders have not yet established highly effective monitoring systems to analyse information gathered about 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:

- extend monitoring systems and analyse information about 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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the leadership team. She looked at relevant documentation, including the action plans and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children, and viewed written testimonies provided by parents to take account of their views.

Inspector

Emma Allison

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are detailed policies in place. Leaders and staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow should they be concerned about the welfare of a child. Children are well supervised and are provided with opportunities to develop an awareness of how to stay safe. For example, staff encourage children to call out the safety rules before playing in the outside area. Parents are provided with excellent opportunities to contribute to their children's learning. For example, integrated reviews are regularly completed of children's learning which include health professionals, parents and children's key workers. This helps to provide a consistent approach to children's learning. Supervision sessions are in place. Leaders discuss areas of development and identify any staff training needs. Staff have excellent opportunities to continue their professional development and share their learning with the rest of the team.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are consistently engaged in their play and are motivated to learn. They have a wide range of opportunities to extend their creative skills. For example, children use flour, dough and other ingredients to make pretend carrot cake and invite others for lunch during role play games. Younger children spend time making new discoveries in their play as they investigate what happens when they mix different coloured waters together. Children add salt and water to ice cubes and watch them dissolve. The well-qualified staff demonstrate a good understanding of how children learn. They use excellent questioning to help encourage children to extend their learning further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are encouraged to develop their physical skills very well. Staff create exciting movement sessions and encourage all children to participate. Children demonstrate good listening and attention skills as they successfully complete different movements and copy staff. They demonstrate good social skills and invite others into their play. Children form strong relationships with their key worker. This shows that they feel safe and secure in their environment. Staff take younger children on outings within the local community, including the library and to collect leaves. They are nurturing and are very responsive to children's needs. Children behave well. Staff offer praise and encouragement and promote positive behaviour. This helps to develop children's self-esteem.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are confident, independent learners and make good progress from what they know and can already do. They take on responsibilities of completing small tasks and are encouraged to tend to their own self-care needs. For example, children put on their own coat and shoes ready for outdoor play. Children have opportunities to develop an understanding of the world around them and learn to care for living things. They talk enthusiastically about their nursery rabbit and what he likes to eat. Children are well equipped with the key skills needed for future learning and their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY240209
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1059633
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	60
Number of children on roll	81
Name of registered person	Emerald Childcare Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP520837
Date of previous inspection	19 December 2012
Telephone number	01388 767300

Emerald Nursery and Children's Centre - Crook was registered in 2003. The setting employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one with early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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