

House of Eden

Surestart Building, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 7DD



Inspection date

4 January 2017

Previous inspection date

10 July 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 management team is ambitious and passionate about providing high-quality childcare. The team regularly reflects on practice. Effective systems are in place to monitor the service provided. These help to prioritise improvements and ensure that changes made benefit all children.
- Staff complete precise assessments and carefully track children's development so they know exactly how well they are progressing. Children have a lot of fun and are interested and motivated learners. They clearly benefit from an educational programme that fosters active learning and gives them opportunities to create and think for themselves.
- Staff place a strong emphasis on building relationships with children and their families from the start. This allows staff to know precisely how to meet children's individual needs.
- Children's emotional and physical well-being are promoted well. They show by their comments and actions that they feel very safe and secure. Children frequently laugh and smile as they play and readily go to staff for comfort or support.
- Staff create a welcoming, safe and healthy play environment. They are aware of their responsibilities with regard to supervising the children in their care. Risk assessment is robust and potential hazards have been identified and addressed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, the good questions staff ask to extend older children's learning and development are not always posed well enough to draw in all children.
- Staff do not always help children, especially those new to the setting, to understand the passage of time, daily routines and what happens next, in order to help reduce any anxiety.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already good use of questioning adopted by adults to consistently gain all children's attention and motivate them to join in with their ideas and responses
- improve the approaches used to help children new to the setting gain a sense of time and understand when key elements of their routines will happen.

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 manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and area manager. She looked at relevant documentation, and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting. The inspector also discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- 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

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an extremely clear understanding of the child protection procedures and how to report any concerns they may have about a child. Recruitment and induction procedures ensure that staff are well qualified and suitable to care for children. The manager carries out regular supervision meetings with staff. This helps to identify training needs in support of staff's professional development. Staff are keen to implement new ideas, especially those inspired through training and networking with other professionals. A recent project undertaken by staff has seen a significant improvement in children's language and listening skills. The senior team carefully monitors and analyses the progress made by all children, in order to quickly identify any areas in need of support or extension. Partnerships with parents are exceptionally good. The manager constantly strives to ensure that as a team, they are responsive to the needs of the children and families who attend.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff understand how children learn and develop. They skilfully plan interesting and challenging learning experiences that build on children's existing skills and knowledge. Children benefit from positive and effective interactions that support their growing independence and confidence. Staff get down to the children's level when talking and skilfully use pictures and gestures to enhance communication. This is especially effective with children who speak English as an additional language and those that may have communication and language difficulties. Babies delight in looking at pictures of animals. Staff capture their interest by making the animal sounds. Older children create self-portraits. Staff provide mirrors and encourage them to look at themselves and compare how they are different from their friends. Children spontaneously use mathematical language. They talk about containers being full up to the top and empty.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are kind and nurturing, and children form strong attachments to them. Children behave well and demonstrate an awareness of behaviour and safety rules, such as why they must walk and not run indoors. Staff support children well in understanding the importance of a healthy diet and managing their own hygiene needs. Children are energetic and enjoy time outside each day. For example, they delight in digging and finding bones hidden in the soil and filling jugs with water and pouring it down the tubes. This promotes their good health, well-being and physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of additional funding, make at least good progress given their starting points and any gaps in their learning are closing quickly. Children learn to become independent. They are encouraged to take care of their own self-care needs, such as toileting and dressing themselves for outdoor play. Children enjoy stories and listen with anticipation as staff read to them. They are gaining the key skills they need to support their future learning and the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY410991
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1060947
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 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	Corecare N/A Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535399
Date of previous inspection	10 July 2013
Telephone number	01325 315 623

House of Eden was registered in 2010. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and three members of staff hold higher qualifications. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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