

Emerald Nursery

Sure Start Centre, Clifford Road, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0AB



Inspection date

31 January 2017

Previous inspection date

1 August 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Leadership is inspirational. The manager demonstrates a strong, passionate drive to continually develop the nursery and improve outcomes for children.
- The quality of teaching is consistently high. Staff have an excellent knowledge of how young children learn and recognise how groups, such as boys and girls may learn in different ways. They use this information to enthuse and engage all children, providing the foundations for their future successful learning.
- Rigorous and accurate assessments are made of children's learning. Staff use this information extremely well to provide rich, challenging and imaginative experiences that help children to make the best possible progress.
- Staff are supported exceptionally well through a continuous cycle of observations, highly effective supervision sessions and training opportunities. This helps them to continually improve their already very strong teaching even further.
- Relationships across the nursery are superb. Staff help children to develop very strong attachments. They engage them in playful interactions, ensuring their safety.
- Partnerships with external agencies and local schools are excellent and well established. Information received from professionals is used extremely well to provide continuity and support for children, especially those who have special educational needs or disabilities.
- Routines throughout the day are managed superbly. Children are supervised extremely well and ratios are maintained at all times.
- Children are supported exceptionally well when they move into the nursery and then on to school. Their individual needs, welfare and stage of development are central to this process.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the excellent range of information shared with parents, to enhance the strong partnerships even further.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and senior management team. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and carers during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff, including students place very high priority on providing an extremely safe and secure environment for children. Highly effective policies and procedures are implemented with precision to manage any concerns staff may have about a child's welfare. The manager monitors the quality of the nursery exceptionally well. Her dedicated senior leadership team provides her with first-class support and ensures all activities are highly effective in meeting children's individual needs. The monitoring of children's assessment information is incisive and highly focused. This ensures individual and specific groups of children, who require intervention, receive it at the earliest stage to meet their needs. Additional funding is used extremely well to precisely target children's unique and specific learning needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Support for children's communication skills is inspiring. Staff are very well qualified and use an excellent range of strategies and encourage children to talk in a wide variety of ways. For example, children show high levels of engagement when they make fruit smoothies with staff. They respond extremely well when staff make comments and ask them effective questions. Children make comments, such as, 'That's a giant, red strawberry' when they use knives safely to cut up the fruit. Partnerships with parents are strong. A wide range of successful strategies keeps them updated with the progress their children are making. The management team now intends to extend the strong partnerships further. For example, by sharing even more information with parents about how their children learn as they play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's emotional and physical needs are extremely well supported. Meticulous care and attention is provided. Highly effective partnerships with parents ensure continuity in the care children receive. Staff know children and their families exceedingly well and provide superior help and support to them. Written comments from parents reflect this view and include statements, such as, 'Totally fantastic, amazing nursery and amazing staff'. Staff help children to understand skills, such as turn taking, sharing and respecting each other. Children show high levels of self-control when interacting with each other and are developing into motivated, confident learners. Their behaviour is excellent. Staff help them to develop a strong awareness of behavioural expectations within the nursery. Innovative, inspiring outdoor opportunities significantly enhance children's physical health and learning.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make high rates of progress, based upon their individual starting points. They are extremely well prepared with the skills and knowledge they require for school. Children are inquisitive learners who actively engage in early writing activities and enjoy mark making, both indoors and outdoors. They extend their mathematical skills and count using numbers beyond 10 during planned and routine activities provided for them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY288945
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1064596
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 - 11
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Emerald Childcare Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP520837
Date of previous inspection	1 August 2013
Telephone number	01207 280022

Emerald Nursery was registered in 2004. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or higher, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm and include after-school care. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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