

The Laurels Child Care

Laurel Avenue, The Woodlands, DURHAM, DH1 2EY



Inspection date	1 February 2017
Previous inspection date	21 January 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

- Leaders and staff have worked exceptionally hard since the previous inspection to raise the quality of the nursery to a remarkably high level. Highly detailed and incisive self-evaluation procedures are in place that capture the ongoing views of children and parents. Leaders are extremely passionate and demonstrate an exceptional drive to maintain the highest level of practice.
- Parent partnerships are first-rate. Staff provide superb opportunities for parents to contribute to all aspects of their children's care and learning. Parents speak extremely highly of the exceptionally dedicated staff team. For example, comments include, 'Not only do staff support my child but they also support me as a parent. They are extremely welcoming and my child loves it here'.
- The quality of teaching is superb. Staff create a sense of wonder and excitement with their creative and innovative teaching strategies. They use excellent questioning to help support children to evaluate their learning. For example, they encourage children to solve problems for themselves, helping to develop their thinking skills.
- Children are provided with a very wide range of opportunities to develop their physical skills. Staff take children on highly exciting outings, such as to the local woodlands. Children recreate their favourite story adventures. Older children are given excellent opportunities to learn how to build dens using natural materials.
- Staff have excellent systems in place to encourage children to develop an awareness of healthy choices. For example, children are inspired to learn about where foods come from. Children grow their own produce and learn about how it changes over time. Staff show children the immediate effect of change, such as by growing cress from seeds.
- Children make rapid progress. They are highly inquisitive and very confident learners. Children demonstrate very high levels of self-esteem and take on the responsibility of completing small tasks. Children are independent and do things for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- evaluate the impact of practice observations on maintaining excellent outcomes for 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 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 nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including self-evaluation procedures and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the nursery manager.

Inspector

Emma Allison

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff demonstrate an extremely thorough understanding of local safeguarding procedures. They are exceptionally vigilant and have highly detailed policies and procedures in place that underpin all areas of practice. Very effective partnerships with other professionals in place. Supervision sessions are completed in a very timely and effective manner. Leaders offer very valuable support and guidance to the highly qualified staff and encourage them to review their excellent quality practice. For example, staff working with babies and young children complete specific projects to further their already superb understanding of how children learn. Leaders have highly efficient monitoring systems in place to review children's progress and precisely evaluate any gaps in learning. They intend to complete regular practice observations to continue to provide superb teaching and achieve excellent outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Planning, observation and assessment systems are extremely well embedded. Staff are highly skilled and use daily observations to plan highly effective and challenging activities based on children's interests. Children have access to an exceptional range of resources and lead their own learning. For example, during outdoor play, children access their own water supply from a large barrel and fill up large trays. They stomp in the water, wearing wetsuits and wellington boots. Children fill up watering cans and water the nearby flowers and talk. They provide a running commentary as they play. Children make their own pizzas for snack time. They carefully cut up pieces of ingredients and talk about how the different ingredients taste and feel. This helps to develop their exceptional language skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave exceptionally well. They are very well mannered and demonstrate care and concern for others. For example, they care for the nursery guinea pig and develop an understanding of his needs and how to care for him. Children play very well together and invite each other into their play. They work highly collaboratively on self-chosen challenges and during role play games. Children have superb opportunities to develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, staff create fire pits with the children and talk to them about emergency procedures and how to recognise hazards in the environment. Children show excellent relationships with staff and are extremely well settled. Staff gather precise information from parents when children first start at the nursery about what they know and can already do.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are exceptionally well encouraged to develop the key skills needed for future learning and the eventual move on to school. They make excellent progress in all areas of learning. Children use mathematical language as they build a large junk model train. They show a deep understanding of size and position to solve problems in their play. Children demonstrate high levels of engagement and great enthusiasm for learning. Young children spend very long periods of time in the highly resourced outdoor environment. For example, they crunch leaves under their boots and dig in the large sand pit.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY337804
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1064898
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 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	The Laurels Child Care Company Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903383
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2013
Telephone number	01913849795

The Laurels Child Care was registered in 2006. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including three with early years qualifications at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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