

The Barn Childcare

Elmwood Community Centre, 53 Darlington Road, Stockton On Tees, TS18 5EP



Inspection date

23 February 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 demonstrate an impeccable drive to deliver the highest quality practice. They are remarkably ambitious and have superb systems in place to continually review the quality of the provision. Detailed audits of the learning environments are completed regularly. Any areas of development are swiftly addressed. Excellent systems are in place to capture the views of staff, children and parents.
- Staff use information from highly detailed and precise observations and assessments of children's learning that capture children's interests superbly well. Children demonstrate a real thirst for learning. Staff create a wondrous and extremely exciting environment and provide challenging activities that ignite children's curiosity.
- Children behave remarkably well and show high levels of respect towards others. Staff are excellent role models. They provide highly exciting and challenging group activities to encourage children to learn about the importance of friendship and helping others. This helps to promote children's social skills.
- Leaders provide very detailed supervision sessions for staff. They maximise staff's skills and use their strengths to deploy staff superbly well. Staff are very proactive and demonstrate a drive to continually improve their already remarkable knowledge and understanding of how children learn.
- Staff promote excellent standards of hygiene practices. For example, staff sing handwashing songs with younger children and talk to them about the importance of keeping themselves healthy.
- All children make remarkable progress, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children's communication skills are remarkably well fostered. Children take part in weekly sign language groups. This is one way that staff help children to communicate with others very effectively. Children are very well prepared for future learning and their eventual move to school.

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 enhancing the already excellent outdoor area on the 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 evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery. The inspector also discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a tour of the premises.
- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Emma Allison

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Leaders are extremely knowledgeable and have highly detailed policies and procedures in place, which are threaded throughout all aspects of practice. Staff place an extremely high emphasis on promoting children's safety and well-being. Partnerships with parents and other professionals are exceptionally well embedded. Highly detailed and precise information is shared with others regarding children's individual needs. Staff provide parents with excellent opportunities to contribute to their children's learning. Parents speak very highly of leaders and staff, for example, 'My child has built up a fantastic bond with the staff, which in turn has had a huge impact on his social skills, communication and his confidence'. Astute processes are in place to monitor the progress children make. This allows leaders to swiftly identify and address any gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The well-qualified staff team demonstrates first-rate interactions with children. Staff show great interest in what children are doing and join in with their thinking. Children are encouraged to test out their own ideas and expertly solve challenges as they play. Staff tell children how proud they are of their achievements. This helps to promote children's self-confidence. Staff provide children with an extremely wide range of highly stimulating resources that can be used in a variety of ways. For example, children use large cardboard boxes, tubes and ropes to build, balance and create exciting structures. This helps to develop children's imagination. Young children absolutely relish in combining materials and fully using their senses during messy play activities. They add water and foam together and squeeze the mixture in their hands as it blends together. Staff play superbly alongside children and encourage them to count as children pour cups of water into the tray. This helps to develop their mathematical skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are provided with exceptional opportunities to complete their own risk assessments and identify hazards in the environment. Leaders have created danger detectives. This involves children and staff using binoculars and looking around the areas to see if they can spot any dangers. In addition, children and staff stand behind one another in a line and move around the room. This is known as their tidy-up train. Children shout out when they spot any hazards around the room. This is done with very high levels of enthusiasm. Staff remind children about why it is important to keep themselves safe. Natural and recycled resources are used to create an exciting outdoor area for children to use their imagination and develop their physical skills. Leaders have highlighted the opportunity to enhance this even further and intend to introduce a sensory garden.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make very rapid progress in all areas of learning and are highly confident. They are provided with excellent opportunities to develop their independence. Children take immense pride in completing small tasks, including handing out cutlery and plates at mealtimes. They are particularly very well supported through times of change, including moving rooms within the nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY494233
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	1026858
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 - 10
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	243
Name of registered person	The Barn Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533073
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01642 587781

The Barn Childcare was registered in 2015. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 21 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including two who have early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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