

The Secret Garden Day Nursery

50 Haughton Green, Darlington, County Durham, DL1 2DF



Inspection date

11 July 2017

Previous inspection date

19 February 2015

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

- Children are happy, settled and confident. Their achievements at the nursery and at home are frequently celebrated with staff and parents. Children demonstrate that they feel very secure and have a sense of belonging.
- Children across the age ranges are eager and motivated to play and learn. They explore a wide range of appropriate resources indoors and outdoors and take part in activities that are planned well to meet their interests. All children make good progress in their learning.
- Parents value the care that staff provide. Staff regularly share information about children's learning experiences and progress with parents. They help parents very effectively to support their children's learning at home. Partnerships with parents are very good.
- Children behave well. They take turns and share resources. Children respond well to well-organised routines, for example, they help to tidy away toys, which helps keep their environment safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Plans for further improvements are not precisely focused on developing the quality of teaching and learning to the highest level.
- Although children are developing good concentration skills overall, staff do not always help children to listen to ideas and comments from other children, for example, during group activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen plans for further improvement that precisely identify and address developing the quality of teaching and learning even further
- help staff to encourage children to listen carefully and respond to the opinions and views of others, particularly during group activities.

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 looked at documentation and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe in the nursery and on outings. The well-qualified staff benefit from regular supervision sessions and team meetings where information is regularly shared to help to support good practice. Feedback from parents, children and staff is used effectively, overall, to inform planning for improvements to the provision. There are strong links with local nurseries and schools to ensure effective two-way communication that promotes good continuity of learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff monitor the learning and development of individual children and groups of children well to help identify and address any gaps in achievement quickly. High-quality information is gathered from parents from the start, for example, about what children can do and their likes and dislikes. Staff support the development of children's good communication and language skills, for instance, staff provide an ongoing commentary to their play. Children show a lively interest in books and how to use them. For example, they join in delightedly with refrains from their favourite stories. Babies and young children respond happily as staff sing familiar songs and rhymes during routines. There is a wealth of opportunities for children to explore and investigate using all of their senses, including mixing and handling a variety of materials, such as water, sand, paint, foam and gloop.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have fun at the nursery and know and understand the routines. Staff support children to become independent in managing their own personal care needs. For example, children wash their hands carefully before meals and access drinking water freely throughout the day. Staff demonstrate clear and consistent boundaries. As a result, children understand what is expected from them. Healthy lifestyles are promoted well by staff. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise outside in all weathers. They laugh as they splash in puddles, wearing protective clothing to keep them dry. Children benefit from nutritious, homemade meals and a variety of healthy snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make at least the expected progress for their age. They develop the skills required in readiness for their move to school. Children make independent choices during play activities, indoors and outside, from the interesting and well-resourced environment. They show good concentration skills and an eagerness to learn.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348737
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	1092992
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 - 9
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	97
Name of registered person	Adele Rachel Jaab
Registered person unique reference number	RP514340
Date of previous inspection	19 February 2015
Telephone number	01325 464 443

The Secret Garden Day Nursery registered in 2007. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff and all staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. One staff member holds early years professional status and one holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7.45am until 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The nursery receives funding for early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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