

Buddies Nursery

1 Newton Cap Bank, BISHOP AUCKLAND, County Durham, DL14 7PX



Inspection date	29 August 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 quality of teaching is good. Practice is particularly strong when staff support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work very well with external agencies to help children to make good progress, based upon their individual starting points.
- Effective planning and assessment systems are in place. Staff skilfully observe children as they play and plan further activities that help children to develop the skills they need to learn next.
- Staff are supported well through supervision meetings and training to improve the effectiveness of their teaching. Managers foster a culture of teamwork and working together to continuously identify some ways the nursery can improve and support children's achievements.
- Managers review the quality of educational activities provided to ensure experiences are appropriate for children's stage of development. Analysis of children's assessment information helps to identify where additional support may be required or where modifications to practice can be made to support children's good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the management team has action plans in place, they have not yet implemented them to enrich the outdoor learning environment accessed by two-year-old children who prefer to learn outdoors.
- Staff do not gather sufficient information from parents about the skills and knowledge children already have on entry to the nursery to promote more rapid progress from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement the action plans that are in place for the outdoor environment that help support the continuing good progress of two-year-old children who prefer to play and learn outdoors
- gather more-detailed information from parents about what children already know and can do when they start at the nursery.

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 one of the nursery managers.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery managers. She looked at relevant documentation 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.

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a strong understanding of keeping children protected from harm. Staff know who to contact should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Effective risk assessments ensure all areas of the nursery, including the outside space, accessed by children are safe. Practices are reviewed in the light of any incident that may occur, to prevent any possible reoccurrence. Staff supervise children well during all activities, indoors and outdoors. Ratios are met at all times. Staff are deployed well, ensuring children's safety. Partnerships with parents are strong, overall. Comments shared during inspection highlight how well informed parents are about their child's experiences at nursery. Clear information, such as any accidents or incidents children may have, is shared as soon as is reasonably practicable, following any event. Any concerns raised about the nursery are managed effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team effectively use their knowledge of how young children learn to help them to make good progress in their learning. They use a wide range of teaching strategies as children play. For example, when younger children pick up musical instruments in the garden area, staff name them and describe how they are played. This helps children to develop their growing vocabulary. Staff support older children to develop their early reading skills. They read stories aloud during activities, such as circle time, where children enjoy joining in with key phrases from their favourite books. Parents are kept well informed of the progress their children are making. For example, parents recently benefited from a parents evening where staff shared what children have been learning and how this could be further supported at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Relationships throughout the nursery are strong. Children are confident, motivated learners who enjoy the time they spend there, building friendships with their peers and the staff team. Staff are attentive and respond well to children's emotional and physical needs. They support children if they become upset or tired during the day, providing a cuddle or supportive knee for children to sit on. Hygiene procedures are good and support children's physical health. Routine activities, such as nappy changing, are effective and staff wear protective gloves and aprons to help maintain high standards. Staff help children to develop an awareness of safety and boundaries within the nursery. They provide gentle reminders when children use equipment, such as scissors. Children respond well and modify their actions accordingly.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. They develop a wide range of skills in readiness for school. Older children extend their mathematics skills when they count and find out how many children are present in their nursery room. They recognise numbers up to 10 and count objects as they play. Younger children concentrate and listen when stories are read to them and point to pictures they like.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY541824
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1111706
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	49
Number of children on roll	103
Name of registered person	Buddies Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP541823
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01388607670

Buddies Nursery registered in 2017. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff, of these, 13 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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