

Ashington Minors

Back Sycamore Street, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 0AH



Inspection date

26 September 2017

Previous inspection date

25 April 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The arrangements for staff's professional development do not help equip them with the skills they need to raise the quality of teaching swiftly.
- Teaching is variable. At times, staff do not interact with children or use all planned activities to fully engage and support older children in their learning.
- Staff members do not always pronounce words correctly to promote children's language and communication skills effectively.

It has the following strengths

- Staff get to know the children well and build up close and caring bonds. They provide plenty of praise for children to help them to recognise what they are doing well.
- All staff are aware of their role in safeguarding children. They are aware of current legislation and procedures to follow should they have concerns regarding a child's welfare.
- Parents are complimentary about the care provided. Staff members encourage parents to share children's achievements at home to help staff develop a wider view of children's development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	Due Date
■ embed the systems for supervision and supporting staff performance in order to raise the quality of teaching throughout the nursery	26/09/2017
■ ensure all staff interact fully with children at all times and use planned activities to help older children explore, think and keep motivated.	26/09/2017

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

- improve how words are pronounced correctly to promote children's language and communication skills effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Anthea Errington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Managers have recently begun to review staff's practice and supervision regularly. This means opportunities to improve staff performance are developing. However, they do not focus as well as possible on improving the quality of teaching. This results in teaching that is not consistently good. Staff have recently completed online safeguarding training and demonstrate a secure understanding of their responsibilities to protect children from harm. Robust vetting procedures ensure staff are suitable, this helps to promote children's safety and welfare. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Parents are complimentary about the nursery. They state that staff are great at keeping them informed and suggest activities they can do at home to support children's learning. Self-evaluation is developing and the staff team has worked hard to address previous weaknesses. For example, all children are allocated a key person who works to ensure effective communication with parents and support children's outcomes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff work well with parents to establish children's starting points on entry and regularly observe children and identify their next steps in learning. However, activities are not always matched to the children's level of development. This means that all children are not always fully engaged and stimulated. On occasions, some staff members do not fully interact with children. This results in some children becoming distracted. Babies have good opportunities to explore. They feel the cold and hard ice cubes and display curiosity pouring the sand between their fingers. Children make good progress in their physical development and develop good control of their bodies as they successfully climb on the outdoor slide. Staff members do not always pronounce words correctly in order to promote children's language and communication skills effectively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well because staff provide them with gentle reminders about the rules in place for their safety. They respond well to this direction. Staff are attentive to children's individual routines and care needs and follow these in line with parents' wishes. This ensures children's emotional well-being. Children happily play outdoors, enjoying the good opportunities for fresh air and exercise. This promotes their good health. In addition, freshly prepared healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided. Children are developing good self-help skills. They use cutlery and learn to feed themselves from a young age, staff provide encouragement and praise to them for their achievements.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children do not make enough progress in their learning. However, they enjoy the routine and are happy and confident. Children understand the routines and show a good sense of security. They learn to share and take turns and how to manage their feelings, which helps support the next stages of their development, including being prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346062
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	1097930
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 - 117
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Ashington Minors Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP526709
Date of previous inspection	25 April 2017
Telephone number	01670 858887

Ashington Minors registered in 2007. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6.30pm.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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