

Footsteps to Nunsmoor

Nuns Moor Centre, Studley Terrace, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE4 5AH



Inspection date

20 September 2017

Previous inspection date

19 September 2014

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

- Key persons are attentive and children form warm, trusting relationships with them. This helps to promote children's emotional well-being and they demonstrate high levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff know the children well. They use their observations and assessments of children's development to monitor their progress effectively. Their timely interventions enable all children to make good progress from their starting points.
- Partnerships with parents, other providers and professionals are good. Information about children is shared in a range of ways. Consequently children's care and learning is consistent and complemented. Parents state that they are very happy with the care and education their children receive.
- Children of all ages play well together in the exciting well-resourced garden and play areas. They delight in the wide range of activities provided outdoors. Children try out different ways to move on the large climbing apparatus and become more agile as they skilfully balance on rope bridges.
- The manager and staff team effectively evaluate practice in order to secure continuous improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not fully encourage children to develop their investigation skills.
- Some elements of the daily routine are less thoughtfully planned to avoid disruptions to children's play and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus teaching more precisely on further enhancing opportunities that help children to explore and investigate
- review daily routines and consider ways to minimise disruptions to children's play and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed activities throughout the group, observed the quality of the teaching and the impact on children's progress. The inspector spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager; she looked at documentation and records, including evidence of the suitability of adults within the group.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their comments.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager closely monitors the work of staff. She observes them as they work with children and meets with them regularly to discuss aspects of their role. The manager carefully plans professional development opportunities and further training. This targeted approach helps to ensure all staff develop the skills they need to fulfil their role effectively. For example, training in managing young children's behaviour has been used effectively with this group of children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Robust recruitment and induction procedures help ensure the suitability of staff to work with children. Staff can recognise signs that would give them cause for concern over a child's welfare. They know how to refer any concerns to the relevant authorities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff promote children's language and communication skills effectively. For instance, they use a range of repetitive words, talk to the children about what they are doing and model new words to extend their vocabulary. Children of all ages are imaginative in their play and test out their ideas. For example, they enthusiastically look for the dinosaurs hidden in the jelly and then make food for them in the mud kitchen. Children are creative. They make pictures using large brushes on large rolls of paper. Children sit happily with staff and listen to stories. They join in with repeated phrases, which helps support their developing interest in early reading.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well cared for in a safe and clean environment. Children are happy and settled throughout the playgroup. Staff are good role models and continually give praise and encouragement. Children enjoy having responsibility, for example, for tidying up after activities. This helps to support children's independence and self-confidence successfully. Staff talk calmly to children and explain to them why some behaviours are unkind or unsafe, supporting children to manage their behaviour well. Staff involve older children in managing risks successfully. For instance, they talk to them about what happens when the floor becomes wet and slippery. Children enjoy healthy foods to eat and follow good hygiene routines.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funded education or who speak English as an additional language are making good progress in relation to their starting points. They develop the key skills they need in preparation for school. Children display an interest in numbers, letters and sounds. They practise their pre-writing skills and enjoy looking at books. Children use good concentration skills as they persevere in completing different tasks and show pride in their achievements. They are developing good listening, speaking and social skills, and are learning to work cooperatively with others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476228
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	1105816
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Footsteps Children's Service Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP909252
Date of previous inspection	19 September 2014
Telephone number	0191 2261006

Footsteps to Nunsmoor registered in 2014 and is located in the Nunsmoor Centre in the West of Newcastle upon Tyne. The playgroup employs six members of childcare staff, of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 9am until midday and from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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