

The Counting House

Nelson House, High Street, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9RG



Inspection date	12 October 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 manager and provider are enthusiastic and dedicated. They have a clear vision for the future. They regularly reflect, review and evaluate the provision, and consider what impact developments are having on the children. They accurately identify areas for improvement. For example, developing strategies to support children who speak English as an additional language.
- Staff use observations and assessments of children well. They accurately identify the next steps in children's learning and plan a good range of experiences to help them achieve positive outcomes in learning.
- Effective and flexible settling-in procedures allow staff to meet the needs of all children successfully. Staff get important information from parents when children start to attend, this helps them to make children feel secure. Staff manage children's move from room to room sensitively.
- The nursery cook provides nutritious homemade meals and drinks. Children benefit from being active in the fresh air every day. This helps children to develop a good understanding about a healthy lifestyle.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always organise large-group activities well to fully support children's learning. Sometimes, the activities are lengthy and not matched to each child's stage of development. This results in the children losing interest.
- Occasionally, staff do not allow children the time they need to answer the questions they ask them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of large-group activities so that all children are challenged appropriately, according to their stages of development
- improve staff's questioning skills and give children the time they need to answer questions, to extend and enhance children's thinking skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and routines, and spoke to staff and children during the day.
- The inspector and manager undertook a joint observation of a group activity and held discussions about children's learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including records of staff's suitability checks, accident and incident records, and paediatric first-aid qualifications.
- The inspector spoke to parents about their views of the provision.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider.

Inspector

Rachael Barrett

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The provider follows robust procedures to ensure the suitability of staff. All staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe, and know what to do if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. The manager's consistent support and monitoring of staff practice ensures they continually update their skills and knowledge, such as by regularly attending training courses. For example, learning how to promote healthy eating, providing nutritious food menus and monitoring portion sizes for children and families. Parents feel involved in their children's learning. For example, staff regularly share ideas and information, to help parents support their children's learning at home. The manager and staff work very well with other professionals who are involved in the health and care of children. The manager monitors children's progress closely. This helps her identify any gaps in children's learning and to quickly provide additional support if needed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff have a good understanding of how children learn through play and exploration. Children use a good range of play equipment and resources that they can select independently and extend their play and learning effectively. Staff support children's learning well as they join in their activities with enthusiasm. Staff use demonstration and a running commentary throughout play. This helps to support language and communication skills successfully. Older children pretend to be pirates looking for treasure and collectively build a 'pirate ship' to take them on their adventures. Toddlers manipulate dough using tools and their hands, they explore with paint and fill and empty containers in the sand and water.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop secure emotional attachments to the staff. They teach children how to recognise and manage their feelings well and praise children regularly. This helps to boost their self-esteem and confidence. Children behave well. Children develop their independence skills, such as pouring drinks and using tools to select and serve food. They learn about good hygiene practices as they wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet. Children develop a good sense of the wider world and learn a positive attitude to people's differences. Children find what they want to play with and work well with others to tidy up. The children rest and sleep according to their individual routines.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop skills that prepare them well for the next stage of their learning and starting school. Older children show an interest in letters and sounds, and start to recognise familiar written words, including their name. All children become independent in caring for themselves, such as using the toilet without help. Babies enjoy exploring and moving about the environment. They confidently make their own choices from the broad range of accessible resources and develop good physical skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY488127
Local authority	Kirklees
Inspection number	1014114
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	102
Number of children on roll	163
Name of registered person	The Counting House Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP902891
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01924 473210

The Counting House registered in 2015. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.00am until 6pm, for most of the year. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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