

Millfield Community Nursery School

Bell Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR4 6JR



Inspection date

5 December 2017

Previous inspection date

12 January 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

- The headteacher and staff are fully committed to achieving high standards in their practice. This has a positive effect on children's learning and the progress they make.
- Overall, staff work in effective partnerships with parents and others to support children's individual needs and development well. Close links with nursery school make a significant contribution to children being emotionally ready to move on.
- The headteacher actively gathers feedback from staff and parents to help support the self-evaluation process in identifying strengths and any areas for improvement.
- Staff place a high importance on supporting children's social and emotional and communication and language development. They are very knowledgeable about how young children learn. The focused planning ensures all children's learning styles are recognised and they make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Children are very happy, calm and well behaved. They enthusiastically engage in stimulating activities in the welcoming, child-centred environment and develop strong relationships with staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not maximise opportunities to help extend children's numeracy skills during their play.
- Staff do not consistently share children's next steps in learning with parents to enable them to be even more involved with their child's learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise opportunities for children to talk about numbers and to count during their play
- enhance the already good communication with parents and share children's next steps to help support their learning at home even further.

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 headteacher.
- The inspector held a meeting with the headteacher. 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

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a very good understanding of their role and responsibility to safeguard children's welfare. Staff are vigilant and supervise children well. Staff recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are robust. The management team monitors the ongoing suitability of staff well and follows the procedures to check that staff are suitable to keep children safe. They evaluate staff practice regularly and support them to make changes to improve the outcomes for children. Staff comment about how beneficial training has been, such as how to help promote children's learning further through using their developing interests.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide interesting and appropriate activities, overall, that engage children and promote their curiosity. They gather valuable information from parents about their children's interests and what they already know and can do. Staff use this and their assessments of children's learning to inform the way they support children's play. Teaching is consistently good. Staff question children skilfully and allow them time to answer to help extend their thinking skills and learning. For instance, children are enthralled as they take part in stories. They excitedly contribute their ideas when staff ask them questions about what they see. Children readily access materials to practise their drawing and writing skills. This helps to promote children's early literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle quickly due to the staff's sensitive approaches and quickly begin to enjoy the happy atmosphere and well-planned opportunities to learn and play. Staff use praise and encouragement effectively. Children are well behaved and they learn about how they need to have 'kind hands', share and take turns with their friends. They have a good understanding about healthy lifestyles and good personal hygiene practices. Staff promote children's physical skills and their exploration of the world around them. For example, children enjoy regular access to fresh air and exercise. Staff use the exciting and well-resourced outdoor area very well to help develop children's physical skills, resilience and confidence. Children confidently use large climbing and balancing equipment and explore the wild nature area with great enthusiasm.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. They are interested in their learning and are very keen to come to nursery. Children play happily together and understand the need to share their toys. All children enjoy exploring textures and extending their creative development, such as when they play with natural resources, sand, water and soil. Children use their imaginative skills extremely well. For example, when they engage in role-play dressing their dolls and play in the mud kitchen making soup using leaves, shells and water. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY280310
Local authority	Sunderland
Inspection number	1091902
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Millfield Community Nursery School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP523689
Date of previous inspection	12 January 2015
Telephone number	0191 5532775

Millfield Community Nursery School registered in 2004. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, all staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one member of staff with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 47 and a half weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

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