

Inspection date	18 April 2018
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

- Staff ensure that parents' comments, suggestions and preferences are adhered to at all times. They involve them in every aspect of nursery life so that parents are aware of children's progress and are able to extend and support children's development at home. Parents comment that staff are caring, approachable and work closely with staff at the school.
- Children are happy in this caring, safe and friendly environment. They are keen to explore indoors and outdoors. They are well motivated in their play. Children thrive in the well-organised provision and make good progress in their learning. They are well prepared for school and the next stage of their education.
- Staff have established very good partnerships with other early years settings that children attend. They ensure the two-way flow of information enables them to support children's progress seamlessly.
- Detailed evaluations of all areas of the nursery are completed and regularly reviewed by the manager and staff with views of parents forming an integral part. These identify areas for development and the planned impact of improvements on children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The organisation of some routines and activities is not planned well enough to enable children to play without interruptions.
- Staff do not always give enough consideration to ways they can effectively support older children's understanding of simple calculations.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more opportunities to enjoy uninterrupted play
- extend opportunities for older children to widen their understanding of simple calculations.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed activities in all areas of the nursery. She observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact on children's learning. She spoke to staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at records and documentation, including the suitability of adults working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views and comments.

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff show a strong commitment to ensuring they are secure in their knowledge and practice of safeguarding procedures and how to keep children safe. Robust recruitment and ongoing checks ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Comprehensive staff performance management systems enable the manager to support staff and identify development, through training and mentoring. Professional development is given high priority. Staff and management evaluate training, assess the impact of changes and improvement on outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff have a very good knowledge of the individual needs of children in their care. Accurate observations and assessments enable staff to plan a range of interesting activities to meet children's individual needs. Staff support children's communication and language skills very well. They are skilled at modelling language and pronunciation with younger children. Staff working with babies value babbles and vocalisations. Older children have fluent conversations and confidently speak in a large group. Children develop an understanding of making marks using a range of mediums. Older children are supported as they recognise and start to form letters, write their name and link letters to sounds they represent.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have formed very secure bonds with their key person and with all staff. Older children form firm friendships with each other. Staff support children to understand what is expected of them through explanation and give constant praise and encouragement. Older children take great pride in their achievements and are proud of their stickers for work well done. Children develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. All children have access to well-resourced outdoor play throughout the day. Older children enjoy this opportunity to play with their younger peers and help and support them on large equipment. Staff use snack times and mealtimes to further support children's understanding of healthy diets. The nursery provides a range of healthy meals with consideration for children's individual dietary requirements and parents' preferences.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funding, are making good progress. Children are inquisitive learners who are inspired to 'have a go' and are keen to investigate. From the very early stages children develop a real interest in books and reading. They sit and read to each other and younger children babble as they turn pages and look at pictures. This supports children's early reading skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539912
Local authority	Stockton on Tees
Inspection number	1076460
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	65
Number of children on roll	161
Name of registered person	Smiles North East Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP539911
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01642 803190

Smiles registered in 2016. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. 15 staff members hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round, from 7am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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