

Spring - Bedlington

Stead Lane, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5JS



Inspection date

22 May 2018

Previous inspection date

4 March 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 leads a dedicated staff team that works hard to improve outcomes for children to meet their individual teaching and learning needs. Staff create flexible plans to meet children's individual needs and follow their interests well.
- Staff are sensitive, caring and value children as unique individuals. Children establish secure attachments with staff from the start. They separate from their parents and are very happy throughout the session.
- Partnership with parents is good. Parents state that they greatly value the provision and ongoing feedback and information they receive about their children's progress.
- Staff work effectively with other professionals to help support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Staff have built strong working relationships with the school.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development from their various starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally do not provide enough opportunities for children to compare quantities.
- The organisation of the environment does not always enable older children to remain focused and fully engaged in their learning. At group times staff do not fully consider the impact this has on children's ability to concentrate.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to compare quantities
- help children to concentrate more easily.

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 manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the playgroup.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Anthea Errington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure understanding of safeguarding and the procedures to follow if they have concerns regarding children's welfare. Staff attend regular meetings with other professionals that help to provide good continuity of care and learning for children. A detailed action plan supports ongoing evaluation. Good partnership working with parents ensures they are aware of children's next steps to help them support children further. Regular staff meetings, supervision sessions and appraisals support staff to understand their roles. Robust recruitment and vetting processes are implemented to ensure those working with children are suitable to do so. The manager collates information to identify all gaps and patterns in learning between different groups of children. This supports staff to provide targeted and focused teaching where necessary.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use the information gained well from their observations and assessments of children's play and plan a range of activities which they know interest children. For example, they encourage children to predict what will happen when they add the teabags to the water. Children's response is that they might float or sink. This ignites children's curiosity and supports their ongoing communication skills. Staff make good use of natural materials as they engage with children playing in the mud kitchen. Children are imaginative as they pretend to make cakes. They pretend the soil is the chocolate powder required. They demonstrate their physical abilities well as they pour the soil into the various containers. Older children display their good mathematical skills as they confidently count children waiting to go outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are valued by staff, which helps them to feel emotionally secure. They feel safe and learn to assess risks for themselves. They carefully balance on the climbing apparatus and move confidently along the swinging bridge. Staff are positive role models and help children to learn to use good manners and social skills. Children are provided with good opportunities for daily exercise. They know when they should follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands and brushing their teeth. Outdoors they engage in energetic and boisterous play and have plenty of fun as they sing together. They practise running, jumping and hopping and recognise the changes to their body following physical exercise. This contributes towards their good physical health.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated to learn. They enjoy listening to stories read enthusiastically by staff. They confidently explore sand, paint and play dough. Children independently fasten their coats and develop skills in readiness for writing, such as drawing and painting to strengthen their hand muscles. This helps them to prepare as they move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY452109
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	1134916
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Action for Children
Registered person unique reference number	RP901399
Date of previous inspection	4 March 2013
Telephone number	01670822714

Spring Bedlington Playgroup originally registered in 2003 and re-registered with the new owners, Action for Children, in 2012. The playgroup employs eight members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The playgroup opens from 11.45am until 3.45pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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