

The Barn Childcare

Elmwood Community Centre, 53 Darlington Road, Stockton On Tees TS18 5EP



Inspection date	8 October 2018
Previous inspection date	23 February 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is outstanding

- Staff are well qualified and have an excellent understanding of where children are in their development and what they need to learn next. They use highly effective teaching strategies to engage children in purposeful play activities.
- Teaching is outstanding. Staff foster children's natural curiosity and exploratory instincts very well. They provide an extensive range of exciting, challenging and well-thought-out activities. Their enthusiasm and passion for working with children is infectious.
- Staff use a range of superb methods to establish exceptional partnership working with parents. This helps to provide consistency for children in their care, learning and development. Parents state that they, 'Love the whole ethos of the nursery'. In particular, they, 'Love that children get to spend so much time outdoors'.
- Staff get to know children very well and are highly responsive to their needs. They offer very flexible settling-in periods for new children. Children form a strong bond and attachment to staff and settle in extremely well.
- Staff support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities superbly. They work exceptionally well with other professionals and external agencies to effectively meet children's learning and care needs. The provider provides one-to-one care for children where needed. The high levels of individual support benefit all children in making the most of their time at the nursery.
- Children make rapid progress from their individual starting points and quickly develop the skills required for future learning.
- There are robust systems in place to manage the performance of staff and identify focused training opportunities to continue to improve teaching and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue with the highly effective monitoring of children's progress to place greater emphasis on the impact that additional funding has on children's progress.

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 had a tour of the nursery and spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and deputy manager. 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

Lynne Pope

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The manager and staff show passion and commitment to delivering the best service for children and their families. They are forward thinking and consistently reflect on their practice, swiftly identifying any improvements. For example, when young children move to a new room staff rethink the layout of the room and make changes to effectively engage with children. The manager shares her knowledge of outstanding provision with other providers who come and visit the setting. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a comprehensive knowledge of child protection issues. Risk assessments are rigorous indoors and outdoors. They stringently monitor access to the nursery so that no strangers can gain entry. The majority of staff have a first-aid qualification. This means that they know what to do when a child has an accident and they deal with it efficiently. Staff are confident about pick-up arrangements from other settings that children attend and they develop a close working relationship with the other settings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

An extremely well-resourced and well-organised environment indoors and outdoors provides children with excellent opportunities to explore different natural resources. For example, pre-school children role play mixing a stew with real vegetables outside, providing them with real-life experiences to support their understanding of the world. Babies explore different ingredients with their hands and enjoy the feel of shaving foam. Staff provide a commentary for children's play and repeat words and sentences to help extend children's vocabulary. Their vocabulary develops further through singing sessions. Children under two years of age thoroughly enjoy singing familiar rhymes and joining in with the actions. Staff and management carry out meticulous monitoring and analysis of children's progress. They have plans to include greater focus on the impact that additional funding has on the progress that children make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide children with an extremely warm and friendly welcome. They are superb role models and provide children with clear, calm and consistent reminders of expectations. For example, they talk to children about using kind hands. Children develop great compassion for others, such as giving a friend a hug when they fall over. Staff are vigilant and support children's desire for adventure and exploration. They teach children how exercise keeps them healthy, for instance, as they learn to climb on the outdoor equipment. Children enjoy an excellent variety of freshly prepared, nutritionally balanced meals each day.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are truly inspired and excited in their learning. They make exceptional progress from their starting points and gain the skills they require for starting school. Children develop high levels of independence and confidence. They learn about risk and keeping themselves and others safe. Staff teach children to think about the dangers around them, such as broken glass or a pool of water. Children listen attentively to others and are eager to share their views and contribute to discussions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY494233
Local authority	Stockton-on-Tees
Inspection number	10080714
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	0 - 9
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	211
Name of registered person	The Barn Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533073
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2017
Telephone number	01642 587781

The Barn Childcare registered in 2015. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one member of staff with early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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