

Little Waves Day Nursery

1a Emily Street East, SEAHAM, County Durham SR7 7SH



Inspection date	23 January 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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 ensures that staff, parents and children are all included in the self-evaluation processes. This helps her to identify the strengths of the nursery and areas for further improvement on an ongoing basis. For instance, staff have enhanced opportunities for children to practise early writing skills in the outside area.
- Partnerships with parents are a key strength of the nursery. Staff keep parents well informed about their child's learning and development. Parents are extremely complimentary about the service provided.
- Overall, staff are skilled at supporting independent play and responding to children's interests. As a result, children are continually engaged in purposeful play and make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff provide a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment. They are effective in supporting children's strong emotional attachments. This helps children to settle in quickly and become ready to learn.
- Staff use meaningful praise with children throughout the day. They are positive role models. This helps children to build friendships and to behave well.
- Staff identify and take action to minimise any potential hazards within the nursery and on outings to help to ensure children's safety. They involve older children in assessing risk. For example, children discuss what they can do to melt the frost so that the outdoor decking is not slippery.
- Although staff read to older children and encourage them to develop pencil-control skills, less focus is given to helping them to learn to recognise familiar words and introducing them to letters and the sounds these make when spoken.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance ways to teach older children about letters and the sounds they make when spoken, to help support their emerging skills in reading and writing even more effectively
- find more ways to evaluate, monitor and review the quality of teaching and help staff to continually reflect on ways to promote children's learning to the highest levels.

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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through the written feedback provided.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are knowledgeable and vigilant. They have a very secure understanding of the child protection procedures and how to report any concerns they may have about a child. Robust recruitment arrangements help to ensure the suitability of those working with children. Regular meetings provide opportunities for staff to discuss ideas and share good practice. Staff attend training and use their new skills well to enhance outcomes for children. For example, staff have introduced Makaton to further support children's ability to communicate. The manager consistently monitors the progress of all groups of children to help to ensure they make good progress in their learning. Parents speak positively about the service provided. They praise staff for the care and attention they afford their children who thoroughly enjoy their time in the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly evaluate children's learning and monitor their progress. They interact with children very well and support their communication and language skills to a good level. For instance, children participate in singing and eagerly share books and listen to stories. Staff use every opportunity to extend children's vocabulary. For example, as older children explore cooked spaghetti, staff introduce new words that describe what they see and encourage children to talk about the textures they can feel. Staff build on children's mathematical skills as they challenge them to find the 'longest' and 'shortest' strand of spaghetti. Staff provide plenty of opportunities for younger children to explore, investigate and learn to solve problems. For example, younger children work out which toys will roll down the ramp into the water. They learn about shape and colour as they dip toy cars into paint and then create patterns as they roll them onto paper.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff develop good relationships with children. They are good role models and treat children with kindness and respect. This helps children learn how to develop strong friendships with others. Staff promote children's good health well. Children benefit from nutritious snacks and food. Staff make mealtimes a happy, social occasion. For example, they join children to eat their lunch. Younger children learn important self-care skills as staff demonstrate how to use everyday items, such as knives and forks. Older children's language is enhanced through conversations with their friends and staff. Staff help children to keep themselves physically healthy. For instance, children enjoy being physically active in the nursery garden, as they dig in the sand and roll hoops.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain skills that prepare them well for their next stage in learning, including school. They are independent and curious learners who show the ability to make their own decisions as they play with their peers. Children rapidly learn self-help skills that promote their independence because staff have high expectations of what children can do for themselves. Children develop essential skills in communication, coordination and their ability to work and play in groups. They listen to and follow instructions well and are motivated to engage in activities that help to promote their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY536886
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10079840
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	Mellenthin, Gillian Anne
Registered person unique reference number	RP536885
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0191 513 0293

Little Waves Day Nursery registered in 2016. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one at level 5 and two hold early years professional status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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