

# Inspection of Ashfield Nursery & ELC

South Tyneside Health Care Trust, South Tyneside District Hospital, Harton Lane,  
SOUTH SHIELDS, Tyne and Wear NE34 0PL

---

Inspection date: 10 August 2021

**Overall effectiveness** **Good**

---

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous  
inspection Good

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is good**

The nursery is a hive of activity, where children play cooperatively under the close nurturing supervision of staff. Staff build secure relationships with their key children, which helps children to feel safe and valued. The curriculum is planned in line with children's interests and emerging learning needs. Children have fun and enjoy attending. Staff working with babies support their exploration and developing mobility well. Toddlers enjoy exploring sensory materials, including play dough, flour and ice. Pre-school children listen carefully to stories and join in at appropriate times. They demonstrate their understanding and develop their confidence to speak in a small group as they contribute to discussions.

Children enjoy being outdoors. Pre-school children demonstrate their motivation to learn as they become fascinated with the bee and slug found in the garden. They consider what will happen if they touch the bee and if they should move it to keep it safe. Children receive regular praise from staff, which helps them to keep motivated during activities. Pre-school children become skilled at regulating their own behaviour. They independently use a sand timer to measure how long it is before their turn, waiting patiently for others to finish. During the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, staff have made adjustments to the settling-in procedure. This has meant that parents are no longer invited into the setting. However, they have ensured that parents are reassured that their children are happy and feel emotionally secure when care begins.

## **What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?**

- Staff plan a curriculum that continually builds on what children already know. They assess children's abilities and use the information to provide activities and opportunities to enhance their learning. The staff provide good support for children who speak English as an additional language and those children who need additional support.
- Overall, children's language is fostered well. Staff engage in conversations with children. They use repetition of key words, alongside sign language, to support the early language development of younger children and those with communication difficulties. Staff model and reinforce words to babies and younger children. They repeat back and pronounce words correctly as babies and toddlers show emerging language. However, occasionally, staff who are less confident do not make the best use of their interactions with older children to explore their ideas more fully and build on their interests further.
- Children's understanding of number is developed across the learning environment. Staff adjust their expectations to offer appropriate challenge to individual children. For example, pre-school children learn to recognise numerals and work out 'one more' as they help to set the table, while younger children

practise counting as they build towers.

- Staff are good role models and manage children's behaviour effectively. They encourage children to take responsibility for their environment and children show great consideration and cooperation as they help their friends to tidy away the toys. Children are well mannered and polite. They show respect for one another and towards staff.
- Parents speak very highly of the nursery and the staff. They access information about their child's learning through an online portal and daily discussions with staff. They are encouraged to share their experiences at home to add to their child's learning journal. This helps staff to establish continuity in children's care and learning. Parents say that staff are very caring and supportive.
- Children's good health is promoted well. They have a range of opportunities to run about in fresh air to develop their larger muscles. They practise their skills using one-handed tools, such as scissors, crayons and pencils, to strengthen their smaller hand muscles.
- Children learn about diversity and the wider world through discussions and activities that build their awareness of cultural events and celebrations during the year. Staff gather key words and phrases from families who speak English as an additional language to aid communication.
- The management team work closely together to continually review and develop the provision. They ensure staff are well supported and have access to training to improve outcomes for children. The views of staff and parents are highly valued and there are regular opportunities for them to share their opinions.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff understand their responsibilities to ensure that children are safeguarded effectively. The manager ensures that mandatory training for staff is kept up to date. Safeguarding is discussed regularly as part of team meetings. Staff have a secure knowledge of the signs and symptoms which indicate that a child could be at risk of harm. They know the procedures they must follow in the event of concerns about a child or where an allegation is made against a member of staff. Recruitment procedures are effective. Managers ensure all staff are deemed suitable to care for children and all relevant checks are completed.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

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

- support less confident staff to use the highest quality interactions with children to explore their ideas more fully and build on their interests further.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY242765
<b>Local authority</b>	South Tyneside
<b>Inspection number</b>	10203211
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	0 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	72
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	101
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Ashfield Nursery And Early Learning Centre Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP520256
<b>Telephone number</b>	0191 4557777
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	15 December 2016

## Information about this early years setting

Ashfield Nursery & ELC was registered in 2002. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, six at level 5, and 11 at level 3. 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.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

## Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The Inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager and discussed how the curriculum is delivered.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider, nursery manager and deputy. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2021