

Inspection of Adventure Valley Day Nursery

Union Hall Farm, Brasside, Durham, Durham DH1 5SG

Inspection date: 8 March 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy the time they spend at this warm and welcoming nursery. They form strong attachments with staff and demonstrate that they are emotionally secure. Children show that they feel comfortable as they play alongside adults or enjoy sitting on their laps when listening to stories.

The curriculum is rich and exciting. Children take part in an excellent range of activities. Staff make full use of the nearby adventure area to enrich children's experiences. For example, children regularly make trips to the farm to see and feed the animals. Children recall these experiences with excitement and enthusiasm. The highly qualified staff team consistently brings children's learning to life, making it interesting and fun. For example, when learning about transport, staff arrange for children to ride on a bus.

Children benefit from effective settling-in processes. Staff know their key children well. They confidently talk about children's individual characteristics, including their abilities, likes and dislikes. Staff give children's safety the highest priority. They are extremely vigilant and help children to understand about possible dangers, especially during visits within the local community. Staff have high expectations for all children. They encourage good manners and are good role models. All children behave well and play cooperatively with others.

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

- Staff are skilled at finding out about the experiences which children have at home. They plan to broaden these. For example, children use their imaginative skills to pretend to be firefighters. Staff extend children's knowledge, and organise a real fire engine and firefighters to visit the setting. Children wait patiently in turn to use the fire hose.
- Staff in the baby room introduce new experiences to enhance babies' sensory development. For example, babies develop their physical strength as they stretch forward and use their hands to scoop slices of lemon and fruity tea bags from the water tray. They enjoy using their senses to explore them.
- Staff skilfully support children to develop their communication and language skills. They encourage children to extend their vocabularies when they play. Children delightfully count and name the dinosaurs in the tuff tray. Staff introduce and repeat interesting words, such as 'stomping' and 'crunching'.
- Children have good attitudes to their learning. They are curious, inquisitive and keen to take part in all activities. Children show high levels of cooperation and respect for one another. They take turns and share equipment. For example, children count the number of scissors available for the activity. They problem solve to work out there is not enough for all of them.

- Staff support children's independence skills. They help children to learn how to take safe risks. For example, children cut vegetables with knives. Staff verbally guide children about how to use the knives and supervise them closely.
- Staff play very close attention to promoting children's good hygiene. For example, they encourage children to wash their hands regularly. Staff have a robust approach to ensuring that children's needs are consistently met. For example, they serve children's food from the kitchen on coloured plates according to their dietary requirements.
- Staff report that they feel well supported, both personally and professionally. Some steps have been taken to reduce their workload. However, on occasions, staff are not consistently available to interact and focus on children's care and learning, due to completing excessive paperwork.
- Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the nursery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff kept in touch with all families. They shared ideas to extend children's learning at home. Parents comment that they feel 'privileged' that their children attend.
- The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) completes relevant training. She carries out her role effectively. The SENCo ensures that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive the additional support that they need. For example, staff use visual aids and sign language to help some children's understanding.
- The passionate manager and deputy lead their staff team very well. They offer valuable support and training for staff's professional development. However, managers do not fully embed training for newer and less-experienced staff, to help strengthen their good practice further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders ensure that staff undertake safeguarding training and attend meetings to keep their safeguarding knowledge up to date. Staff are very knowledgeable about how to keep children safe. This includes the broader aspects of safeguarding, such as female genital mutilation and the 'Prevent' duty. Staff know the signs to look out for in children and their wider families. They know who to report these concerns to, including to agencies outside of their organisation. The provider follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure that those they employ to work with children are suitable to do so. The premises are clean, safe and secure, and staff carry out checks to maintain good standards.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure that all staff are consistently deployed, so that their time is spent with

children and focused on their learning

- strengthen and embed support for newer and less-experienced staff to help raise their good level of practice higher.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2548520
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10214322
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	86
Number of children on roll	142
Name of registered person	Adventure Valley Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2548519
Telephone number	0191 384 5540
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Adventure Valley Day Nursery registered in 2019. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, 21 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two staff with early years teacher status and three staff with early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Claire Crumpton

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children and staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual, manager and deputy manager about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The SENCo spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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.

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