

Inspection of Southfield Day Nursery

1 Sandersons Terrace, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6XD

Inspection date: 9 June 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Requires improvement
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are confident and curious learners. They benefit from a curriculum that helps them to develop essential skills for future learning. This includes developing their communication and language and physical skills. Children show that they feel safe and secure through the attachments that they form with staff and each other. They are independent and manage their self-care needs well. Furthermore, children make regular choices in their learning and play. Children climb on large apparatus in the outside area and learn to manoeuvre around objects. They balance across obstacle courses. Children jump and run to catch bubbles during outdoor play games. This helps to develop children's physical skills. Furthermore, babies learn to crawl and are provided with exciting materials and objects to offer encouragement for further movement.

Staff shower children with praise and encouragement. They smile warmly and clap their hands as children achieve their goals. This helps to promote children's self-esteem. Children listen and follow instructions. Older children learn the importance of managing their feelings and behaviour. Children respond to collecting 'stars' and are rewarded with special treats. For instance, children participate in events and activities of their choice. Children recognise the impact of their own behaviours on others and develop respect towards others. This helps to build children's social skills.

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

- The highly enthusiastic manager has worked hard with the staff team to implement significant changes in the setting since the previous inspection. She works alongside staff and the local authority to embed positive changes in the setting. There have been a number of new employees recruited at the nursery over recent months. Therefore, managers require time to evaluate changes to the environment, particularly in order to reduce noise levels and to enable children to receive more focused learning, for instance for those children who receive targeted speech and language support.
- Children engage in mark-making activities. They use large chalks during outdoor play and talk about the marks they make on the ground. Children use clipboards to paint pictures in the nursery garden. Young children play alongside each other as they push toy cars through paint and onto different-textured surfaces such as bubble wrap. Children delight in showing others the different patterns they have created during sand play games. This helps to develop children's early literacy skills.
- Older children participate in tasks such as making their own dough. They weigh, measure and count out their ingredients. Staff introduce mathematical vocabulary to children as they play in water and sand, such as 'heavy', 'empty'

and 'full'. Children learn about where food comes from and participate in activities such as growing their own plants and vegetables. Children proudly show others their radishes as they help staff to dig them up.

- Managers and staff focus on promoting children's communication and language skills. For instance, staff engage children in stories, songs and rhymes. Staff use pictures and non-visual cues to support children to understand what happens next in the nursery routine. Staff follow children's lead in play. However, they ask too many questions in quick succession that do not help to extend conversations and build on children's vocabulary.
- Parents speak highly of the staff and managers. They feel that they are fully involved in all aspects of their children's care. Staff provide activities and resources to help continue children's learning at home. For instance, they have set up a 'lending library' where children are able to choose their favourite storybooks to share at home. Furthermore, staff provide children with a diary and a soft toy animal to take home. Children show enjoyment as their stories of their adventures at home with the toy bear are shared with their friends. Staff encourage parents to bring in completed 'kindness hearts', which include moments of kind things that children have done at home. These moments are then celebrated at nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers and staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the recording and reporting procedures if they have any concerns about the welfare of a child. Staff receive regular training, including bi-monthly meetings and internal and external training sessions. This helps to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. Induction and recruitment procedures are robust. This means that staff working with children are suitable to do so. Managers are aware of their responsibility to report any allegations against staff. They monitor children's attendance and follow up any unexplained absences. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of the signs that children and families may be exposed to extreme views and behaviours.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review evaluation procedures to identify changes to the environment that allow for quieter periods for focused learning to take place, such as communication and language development activities
- build on questioning techniques to help enhance children's creative thinking skills and provide further challenge to their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY555669
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	10238595
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	60
Number of children on roll	101
Name of registered person	Choice Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904033
Telephone number	0191 250 2221
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2021

Information about this early years setting

Southfield Day Nursery registered in 2018. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. 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
Emma Allison

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the deputy manager.
- Parents shared their views on the setting with the inspector.
- 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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