

Inspection of Busy Bees Day Nursery at Newcastle

Silver Fox Way, Cobalt Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE27
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Inspection date: 17 August 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	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Staff understand that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on some children's learning and development. Curriculum plans help children to catch up on lost learning and, generally, support the good progress that they make. Older children are confident, capable learners who develop their own ideas during play. For example, they use a frame and plastic tubes to build roads and ramps for vehicles. Younger children show a keen interest in nature. They dig for vegetables in the garden and explore model animal habitats that staff create. Babies babble happily when staff share books and sing with them. Plans to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are focused and precise. This contributes to the excellent progress that they make.

Children arrive happily and show a sense of belonging. Older children readily approach staff for a hug or reassurance throughout the day. Staff working with babies hold them close and speak to them gently, which helps them to feel secure in their care. Children show care and consideration for others. For example, a child holds a friend's hand and puts an arm around them for comfort, explaining why they feel a little sad.

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

- Staff provide a broad and balanced programme of activities that, generally, help children to build on what they know and can do. However, some plans for learning are not precise enough to help children to make the best possible progress in their learning. Some staff do not ensure that activities provided have a clear learning intention.
- Children are fluent and articulate talkers. They share their ideas and tell visitors all about what they like to do in nursery. Staff support their language development well. They have recently introduced simple signs that help children to communicate more effectively. Staff encourage children to develop a love of books, which helps them to learn new words.
- Parents are exceptionally complimentary about the nursery. They speak highly of the electronic system used to share information and appreciate that staff act upon their ideas and suggestions. For example, parents felt they needed more information when children move to the next room. Staff created a new 'getting to know you' document to support children and parents more effectively during these transitions.
- Staff working with younger children do not always deploy themselves effectively to ensure that all children are consistently supported well. At times, they focus too much on routines and tasks and overlook children who are not engaged in purposeful play and learning. This results in some children becoming restless.
- Leaders and managers have a realistic view of the strengths and areas of

development in nursery. They have developed comprehensive plans for continuous improvement. There are appropriate arrangements in place to supervise and support staff. However, these are not fully effective to address slightly weaker aspects of practice as quickly as possible.

- Staff have high expectations for children. As they progress through the nursery, children are encouraged to be as independent as possible. They develop a very good range of self-help skills and are proud to tell visitors, 'I can do it all by myself.' This helps them to develop self-esteem and to prepare them for school.
- Children benefit from carefully planned learning programmes that support their good health. They take part in a number of physical activities, such as yoga and ball games during 'up and active with Buzz' sessions. Menus are planned carefully to meet children's nutritional needs. Staff teach children good hygiene habits, such as handwashing.
- Staff help older children to share their ideas and views. They hold 'children's council' meetings, where they help staff to make plans for improvements. Children learn to follow rules and take turns, for example during a board game about the weather. This helps to prepare children for life in modern Britain. They are very respectful and behave well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff know the signs that can indicate that a child may be at risk from harm or abuse. There are stringent arrangements to record and report any worries about a child's welfare, which helps to ensure that any concerns are dealt with quickly and appropriately. Leaders ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Procedures to manage allegations or concerns about staff conduct are comprehensive. There are effective arrangements to keep children safe in nursery. For example, a 'traffic light system' with colour-coded utensils and equipment helps to protect children who suffer from food allergies during mealtimes.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- refine the curriculum plans to ensure that staff have more precise intentions about what they want children to learn
- deploy staff more effectively to ensure that younger children are supported even more consistently in their play and learning
- strengthen the arrangements for staff supervision and support to address minor weaknesses in practice even more swiftly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY254577
Local authority	North Tyneside
Inspection number	10229477
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	110
Number of children on roll	124
Name of registered person	Busy Bees Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900821
Telephone number	0191 257 8842
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Busy Bees Day Nursery at Newcastle registered in 2003. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two at level 6. A further five members of staff hold level 2 qualifications. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6.15pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Clare Wilkins
Denise Charge

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and staff and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager showed an inspector around the nursery. She talked about the curriculum and the way the provision is organised.
- Inspectors observed staff's teaching in all rooms in the nursery and in the outdoor areas. They assessed the impact this has on children's learning and development.
- Leaders and inspectors met to discuss leadership and management of the nursery. Inspectors looked at relevant documents provided, such as the suitability checks carried out on staff.
- The manager and inspectors completed a joint observation of an activity.
- Inspectors spoke to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection. They spoke to a number of parents 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.

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