

Inspection of St. Gabriels Nursery

Chillingham Road, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE6 5SH

Inspection date: 5 October 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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children build strong emotional attachments with their key person and will seek them out for cuddles and reassurance when needed. Staff know the children well and are attentive and sensitive to their individual needs. Children clearly feel safe and secure. This helps them to become confident learners.

Overall, children develop a deep appreciation for books. Pre-school children recall what a story is about before it is read to them. Toddlers enjoy looking at a book on their own or listening in a small group to a story being read. Books are available in each room. However, the books for younger children are not maintained well and do not entice children to browse through them and make their own choices.

Staff have a strong focus on personal, social and emotional development across the nursery. They identified that children were less confident in this area when they returned to nursery after the COVID-19 pandemic. Children benefit from being split into small groups in their rooms. They move around the nursery in these small groups so that they all get an opportunity to access different activities, such as outdoor play. Children's behaviour is managed well in the nursery. Staff focus strongly on teaching children to share resources and take account of each other.

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

- The experienced manager supports the staff team well. She is enthusiastic in her role and has a clear vision for how she wants the nursery to develop. Effective systems are in place for the supervision of all staff. The management team observes staff's practice and provides them with constructive feedback to further improve their teaching. Staff complete regular training, such as safer sleeping and choking. This helps to keep their knowledge and skills current. Robust recruitment ensures that suitable staff are appointed to work with children.
- There is a strong focus on children's communication and language development. Staff use lots of commentary during children's play. They repeat words and rephrase what children say. For example, babies and toddlers enjoy sensory experiences, such as dried cereal and tasting various food. Staff introduce new words, such as 'crunchy' and 'sweet'. Music, movement and singing are part of everyday activities. This supports children's early attempts at communication.
- Staff know the children very well, including those who need additional support. They observe children to assess what they can do and to identify many of the skills they need to learn next. Planning focuses on any gaps in children's learning and experiences. Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is good. Staff identify potential issues early on, and external support and advice are sought when necessary. Parents are fully involved in the process.
- Children's health needs are promoted well. For example, staff gather detailed

information about children's individual dietary needs. They follow robust procedures to ensure children with allergies and special dietary requirements are met. Staff talk to children about caring for their teeth. However, they have not worked with parents to help identify those who need a dentist.

- Partnership working with parents is effective. Management and staff work with parents of new children to find out about their needs and to help them settle in. Staff give parents a verbal update on their child's day when they collect them. Parents can also see staff's observations on their children on the online portal and have the opportunity for discussions about their child's development in meetings. Parents share their positive views of the setting and what staff do with their children.
- Children develop an understanding of the area in which they live. For example, they recently visited the local church and learned about the Harvest Festival. Children look at different festivals throughout the year, and learn that they are unique and that not everyone has the same beliefs and cultural traditions as them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff confidently explain the procedures they would follow if they were concerned about a child. They are able to give examples of signs of abuse. They also have knowledge of whistle blowing and know that if concerns are not taken seriously, it is their responsibility to report. Managers test staff's knowledge and make sure their safeguarding training is always up to date. They use regular staff meetings and supervision sessions to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The nursery is safe and secure. Risk assessments are carried out. Recently changes have been made to how children access the garden from the first floor, to ensure that this is a safe process.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- promote children's enjoyment of books, particularly in the baby room, by making sure they are maintained in a good state of repair
- develop methods for promoting the good oral health of children through links with parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	319303
Local authority	Newcastle upon Tyne
Inspection number	10257643
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	120
Number of children on roll	108
Name of registered person	Kid 'N' Play Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP522224
Telephone number	01912 765 909
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

St Gabriel's Nursery registered in 1996 and is situated in Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including two staff with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Lynne Pope
Janet Fairhurst

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager and the inspectors completed a learning walk together to understand how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspectors observed the quality of the education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspectors talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Management had a meeting with the inspectors and talked about how they lead and manage the nursery.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents.

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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