

Inspection of Little Jems Nursery

13 Swinburne Street, Jarrow, Tyne And Wear NE32 3ED

Inspection date:

18 November 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

Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and confident in this friendly and welcoming nursery. When new babies and children join, staff take the time to get to know them and their families. This means that children bond well with staff and get off to a strong and successful start.

Babies, toddlers and pre-school children have their own rooms, which provide a safe, nurturing environment for them to learn and explore. Children make their own choices in their play, and staff engage with them to develop their knowledge and understanding across the different areas of learning.

Children are encouraged to try new things and receive support and praise from staff as they succeed. Hugs and reassurance are on hand when needed. This helps children to feel safe and secure. Staff know what children need to do next to progress in their learning, and this is also shared with parents and carers.

Children show kindness to one another. For example, when one child drops an item, a friend picks it up for them. They show pride as they accomplish tasks set up in the rooms and happily take part in familiar daily routines, such as lining up to wash their hands and sitting smartly at the table for mealtimes.

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

- Leaders and managers ensure that the premises is safe and suitable for babies and young children. Risk assessments are used effectively by all staff. Since the last inspection, training has been provided to ensure staff have a secure understanding of how to store cleaning products in the nursery. This means that risks to children in the setting have been minimised.
- The manager has implemented a clear curriculum, ensuring that children progress as they move through each age phase in the nursery. For example, to develop mathematical knowledge and understanding, staff in the baby room count towers of blocks and model mathematical vocabulary, such as 'lots' and 'more'. In the toddler room, children explore number books and the numbers one to five, and in the pre-school room, children focus on the numbers one to 10 and match numbers to the correct quantity of objects.
- Staff have identified a need to focus on developing communication and language skills. Babies happily engage in cheeky games of peekaboo, while older children demonstrate their increasing language skills as they enthusiastically make up their own songs and spells. However, not all staff consistently engage with children in conversation or model language as they play. This means that children do not always get the opportunity to extend their language skills even further.

- The nursery has enrolled on a COVID-19 recovery programme. This has supported staff in reflecting on what the nursery does well and how to improve. As a result, the team have developed some of the play areas. Following the changes, children have shown increased engagement, language and skills in those areas. For example, pre-school children learn about cooking and ingredients by exploring real food items in the home-corner kitchen.
- All children have a key person, who ensures that their individual needs are being met. Parents are highly complimentary of the communication and support they receive and enjoy receiving detailed handovers when they collect their children.
- Where children require additional support, staff discuss this with parents, and the special educational needs coordinator is quick to ensure that the right help is accessed.
- Parents say that staff provide them with support and advice when needed and they feel confident in approaching the team with any worries or concerns. They enjoy looking at the beautiful 'floor books', which are full of photos, paintings and notes to show what the children have been learning at nursery. Children also use these books to reflect on the experiences they have had at nursery.
- Children explore their own ideas and make their own choices. Staff encourage them to grow in independence. For example, babies make their way to the table and sit down to wait for lunch. Toddlers learn how to hang up their coats and take their shoes off, and older children show pride as they help with tasks, such as putting the milk away in the fridge.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team use a robust recruitment process alongside ongoing checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff are confident in their understanding of the whistle-blowing policy and are aware of the procedures to follow when concerns are raised about the welfare of children. Risk assessments are in place and are used to keep children safe, inside the nursery and in the rooftop garden. Established hygiene routines support children to learn about the importance of handwashing. Children and families are also supported in learning about good oral health.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen opportunities for staff to support children's growing language and communication skills throughout the nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484448
Local authority	South Tyneside
Inspection number	10231615
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	34
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Little Jems Nursery Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP534218
Telephone number	01914899909
Date of previous inspection	24 February 2022

Information about this early years setting

Little Jems Nursery registered in 2015. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager, who holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. However, they can be flexible, with an opening time of 7.30am. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Dani Taylor

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 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.
- The inspector spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- 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 a group activity 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.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.

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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