

Little Cubs Days Nursery

Xcel Centre, Heighington Lane Business Park, NEWTON AYCLIFFE, County Durham,
DL5 6AP



Inspection date

3 May 2017

Previous inspection date

13 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager has a clear vision for the nursery. She has good systems in place for evaluating the nursery and is aware of the strengths and areas for improvement. The views of staff and parents are valued as part of this process. This helps to develop the nursery and maintain continuous improvement.
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported very well. Close partnership working is in place between nursery staff, parents and other professionals involved. This helps ensure children receive a consistent approach to their care and learning. All children make good progress.
- Partnerships with parents are a particular strength of the nursery. Parents are widely informed about their children's progress and activities they particularly enjoy. They are encouraged to share ideas and achievements from home.
- Staff are very good role models for children. They are kind and polite and gently remind children to use good manners. Staff offer meaningful praise to children about their achievements. This helps children develop good levels of self-esteem.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not support older children's interest in technology or provide enough opportunities for them to use it for a purpose.
- The manager is not yet fully analysing the progress made by different groups of children to target teaching as well as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide older children with more opportunities to explore and extend their interest in technology
- extend existing monitoring systems and review the progress made by different groups of children to identify and target further gaps in learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, both indoors and outdoors. She assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Karen Tervit

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a good awareness of child protection and fully understand their responsibility to protect children from harm. Robust recruitment procedures are in place, including regular checks on the ongoing suitability of staff. Wider safeguarding issues are discussed and firmly embedded in daily practice. The manager has good systems in place to support and supervise the staff team. She encourages staff to build on their knowledge skills and qualifications. Staff have developed highly effective partnerships with other professionals and settings children attend or are about to attend. This helps to provide a consistent approach to children's care, learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified. They use their skills to carefully observe children, assess their learning and identify what they need to learn next. They plan a broad range of interesting and exciting activities linked to children's interests. For example, when children find a worm in the garden they support them in creating a habitat for it, encouraging them to think about different materials they can use. Staff use effective questioning techniques and encourage children to think and respond. They engage children in meaningful conversations and older children are confident speakers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are nurturing and provide a warm and welcoming environment for children and their families. All children are happy and settled. A well established key-person system helps children form secure attachments and promotes their emotional well-being. Children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills and experience fresh air and exercise. They learn to keep themselves safe and assess risks. For example, younger children learn to climb the steps on the slide correctly and older children know that scissors can be dangerous if not handled correctly. Staff provide healthy and nutritious food at mealtimes. They cater for children's individual dietary requirements very well. Staff have a fair and calm approach to behaviour management, working closely with parents to provide a consistent approach. Children learn what is expected of them and behave well.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities make good progress. They are confident, interested and motivated learners. Older children are beginning to recognise initial sounds and write their name. They confidently count and compare sizes. Children are developing good independence skills. They wash and dry their own hands, choose and peel their own fruit and help tidy up resources. All children are developing the skills they need for their future learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY402820
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1094131
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	68
Number of children on roll	81
Name of registered person	Xcel County Durham
Registered person unique reference number	RP535147
Date of previous inspection	13 March 2015
Telephone number	08454 505871

Little Cubs Days Nursery registered in 2009. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6 and 11 at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. This is with the exception of bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Thursday and from 7.30am until 5pm on Friday. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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