

Inspection of Yellow Wellies

Avenue House, North Road, Durham DH1 4SG

Inspection date: 1 November 2019

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Staff are happy, enthusiastic and passionate about their work with children. The provider and leadership team are inspirational and have extremely high standards and expectations for all who attend. Children are eager to learn and develop a range of skills beyond the expectations for their age, particularly in their language, literacy and independence. Children's behaviour is exemplary throughout the nursery. Staff support younger children to manage their feelings and ensure experiences are very positive. Older children show kindness and consideration towards younger children, holding their hands as they practise balancing.

Staff know children exceptionally well. They follow robust procedures to help new families settle in. Babies have an excellent bond with their key person and show they feel very safe and secure. Older children move up into new rooms and are extremely well-prepared for the changes and challenges. Staff build highly successful partnerships with parents and ensure they are involved and included in children's learning. In addition, partnerships with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists and teachers, are extremely effective. This helps staff to provide individually tailored support to children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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

- Staff have an exceptional knowledge and understanding of how to help children learn through their play and exploration. They research the most effective ways to help children build social skills and have used funding to develop the environments. For example, staff have created social spaces for children to work together, discuss ideas and solve problems for themselves.
- Parents say they feel overwhelmed by the effort from staff to help their children feel welcome. They are particularly happy with how staff use the information provided to capture children's interests and adapt the rooms accordingly.
- Staff actively promote children's literacy and language development. They have created a space for parents to read to children on collection and borrow stories to take home. Young children show exceptional levels of interest in stories. Toddlers recite favourite phrases and recall the main events of stories. Staff extend this during children's play with sand. Older children have individual early writing baskets, which they take to every area in the nursery. They use writing for a range of purposes.
- Children are extremely well prepared for the next stages in their learning and life in Britain. The management team has worked closely with schools to identify and help children develop essential skills they need before moving on.
- Staff use every opportunity to teach children how to keep themselves safe. For example, children use tablets to research their interest in garden birds. Staff

supervise closely and show children how to use the technology. In addition, they provide parents with information about online safety.

- Older children are encouraged to develop their interest in the community and wider world. They use existing knowledge of the structure of famous landmarks to create their own structures out of wooden blocks. Staff support children in testing and experimenting to see how strong their bridges are.
- Staff are keen to promote children's good health and help them to develop excellent physical skills. Young children access their own drinks after dancing and staff talk to them about keeping hydrated. Older children show excitement and enjoyment as they pedal at speed around the garden using the train track they have designed.
- Babies thrive on high-quality interactions from the caring, nurturing staff team. Staff cuddle babies while they have bottles and sing softly to them. Older babies begin to develop independence and self-care skills. For example, they put their nappies on dolls, reflecting their care experiences from home.
- Staff who work with babies understand the importance of consistency and follow parents' wishes. This has a very positive impact on children's emotional well-being. They have everything they need to feel safe and secure.
- The provider and leadership team value staff and provide them with regular opportunities for professional development. For example, they regularly complete observations to help staff reflect on the effectiveness of their teaching. Staff are keen to take part in new projects, such as developing the outdoor area. They take pride in their role.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The provider ensures the whole team prioritises children's safety and well-being. Managers attend advanced training for safeguarding and regularly check the information provided by the local authority. They share their knowledge at each team meeting to ensure staff have the most up-to-date procedures to follow if they have any concerns about children. Staff are confident to identify potential signs of abuse and neglect. They have a clear understanding of wider child protection issues, including female genital mutilation and radicalisation. Risk assessments are completed to ensure areas used by children are safe. In addition, staff complete specific individual risk assessments, as appropriate.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360601
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10117651
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	0 to 10
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	63
Name of registered person	Daypark Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP524704
Telephone number	0191 384 1444
Date of previous inspection	6 June 2014

Information about this early years setting

Yellow Wellies registered in 2007 and is located within Durham city centre. The nursery employs 19 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The provider and one of the managers have early years degrees. There is also a qualified teacher in the setting. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. 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

Inspector

Michelle Lorains

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector obtained the views of staff and children throughout the inspection.
- Both managers took part in joint observations with the inspector. Staff were observed working with children of different age groups, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery managers and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's policies and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- Parents provided verbal and written feedback for the inspection. The inspector 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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