

Inspection date	5 April 2016
Previous inspection date	8 December 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The management team is highly skilled and effective at constantly monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the setting, in order to support continuous improvement.
- Staff quickly identify children who require additional support and work extremely closely with families and other professionals involved in their care. Precise teaching skills, expertly delivered by staff, help children to reach their full potential and rapidly narrow any gaps in their learning.
- A great strength of the nursery is their highly positive and trusting partnerships with parents. The staff are exceptionally committed to maintaining a very effective flow of information with parents. Staff actively seek parents' views and ideas. They successfully incorporate parents' observations of their children at home into activity planning. Consequently, children's progress is rapid.
- The experienced and well-qualified staff team offers a tremendously rich and varied range of multi-sensory activities. These learning opportunities enable the children to extend and build on skills that provide them with a firm understanding to continue exploring and learning.
- Children develop exceptionally strong emotional attachments with staff. All staff are warm and loving towards the children and promote high levels of positive interaction with them throughout the day. This helps children to settle quickly into the nursery.
- Children demonstrate exceptionally positive behaviour and staff are good role models. The highly stimulating and welcoming environment motivates children to become keen learners who listen to and interact extremely closely with staff and each other. Children are kind and helpful to one another.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the implementation of the plans to extend children's learning experiences outdoors, in order to promote their development even further and evaluate the impact on their outcomes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of adults in the setting.
- The inspector took the views of parents into account.

Inspector

Helene Terry

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff fully understand their responsibilities in protecting children in their care. Recruitment and the checking of staff's suitability to work with children are rigorous. The ongoing suitability of staff is regularly checked to ensure that children are fully protected. There is a strong and comprehensive system for monitoring staff's performance. Staff have excellent opportunities to further develop their skills and knowledge. For example, staff have attended training on how to support boys' learning even further. Staff are also due to attend Forest School training. Some members of the team are working towards attaining degrees in early years. This ensures staff are extremely effective in enhancing the learning outcomes for all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have high expectations of themselves and for what children can achieve. They ensure that their teaching and high-quality toys and activities are presented in ways to provide excellent challenge. Staff know precisely when to intervene in children's play to support and extend their learning further. They encourage children to think and explore their ideas, in order to solve problems. This was demonstrated when children were asked how they were going to move water from one area of the mud kitchen to another. Monitoring of children's learning and development is accurate and precise and meticulously tracks the progress of both individual children and groups of children. Any gaps in learning are then swiftly identified and addressed.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff's guidance and interaction are excellent. Children develop extremely high levels of self-esteem, which has a positive impact on their everyday well-being. They are encouraged to be extremely independent and self-sufficient, developing an excellent understanding of how to manage risks and challenges relative to their age. Children help set the tables at lunchtime and develop calculation skills as they look at how many places to set for the number of children present. Pre-school children are helpful towards the babies and toddlers. For example, they pour babies' drinks from the water cooler and pass them through to staff in the baby room. Children have nutritious meals and enjoy a wealth of physical activities and outdoor experiences to keep them healthy. The outdoor play area is being developed to enhance children's learning even further.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children thrive and make rapid progress in their learning and development, in relation to their starting points. This includes funded children, disabled children and those with special educational needs. Children delight in playing in the mud kitchen, where they develop early skills in science and art, using their imaginations to test out ideas through observing cause and effect. Children show curiosity as the water disappears down a tube and reemerges into a container. Babies and toddlers learn using their senses as they observe how light moves around the room using torches and balls that emit light. Children gain a vast array of key skills that fully supports their readiness for the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY428575
Local authority	Kirklees
Inspection number	850173
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Portland Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	8 December 2011
Telephone number	01484519542

Harlequin Nursery has been operating under its present ownership since 1996 and registered as a limited company in 2011. The nursery is one of four nurseries owned by Portland Nurseries Limited. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. One member of staff holds Qualified Teacher Status, two are studying towards early years degrees and the manager holds a level 5 childcare and leadership qualification. In addition, one member of staff holds a level 2 qualification and one member of staff is an apprentice. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports disabled children and those who have special educational needs.

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