

## A Review of Quality Practice – Preparing For Inspection Visit Summary Guidance

Name of Setting	Shotley Bridge Nursery School
Address	Shotley Bridge Nursery School 36-38 Derwent Street Blackhill Consett Durham DH8 8LY
Date of Assessment:	28 January 2019
Name of Associate:	Gillian Kitchen
Date Report submitted:	31.1.2019

### Disclaimer

*The purpose of this visit is to support managers and practitioners in self-evaluation and assessing quality standards against the EYFS statutory requirements and learning and development requirements in order to prepare you for your Ofsted inspection. Strengths and areas for development highlighted on the day of the visit are summarised in this report. As sole arbiter of quality, Ofsted have the responsibility to make overarching judgements of the quality of registered provision during inspection. This visit and subsequent report should support staff and managers in self-reflection and quality improvement to support you in providing the highest quality of care and early learning to children. NDNA will not take responsibility for judgements awarded to settings by Ofsted following take up of this service.*

<b>Progress Since Last Ofsted</b>
<p>Previous recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance the already effective process of reflection on the nursery's strengths and weaknesses, in order to identify and address new priorities for improvement and raise the quality of the nursery to the highest level.</li> <li>- Embed and review the impact of recent changes made to planning practice, and ensure they are successful in further raising the already good standards and ensuring the very best outcomes for children.</li> </ul> <p>Progress made</p> <p>These recommendations have been fully addressed.</p>
<p>Key action points (where applicable)</p> <p>NA</p>
Summary of key strengths:
<p><b>Over-all effectiveness</b></p> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of teaching and assessment is of a very high standard</li> <li>• Safeguarding is effective</li> <li>• There are no breaches of statutory requirements</li> </ul> <p><b>Areas to develop:</b></p> <p>NA</p> <p><b>Effectiveness of leadership and management</b></p> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The management team are inspirational in their pursuit of providing the highest quality care and education for children. They systematically evaluate the quality of the nursery provision and constantly strive for excellence in improving the lives of children. They are passionate about ensuring that they provide every single child with the best possible care and education so that children make rapid progress from their starting points.</li> <li>• The views of staff, parents and children are actively sought and consistently acted upon.</li> <li>• There is strong leadership in place and the management team's enthusiasm is evident in their work. The managers and room leaders are highly qualified,</li> </ul>

knowledgeable and passionate about their work. There is excellent understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This ensures that all staff are fully supported in their work and all children are progressing extremely well in their learning and development.

- Managers are passionate about the vision for the nursery and ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently of the highest standard. Managers and staff observe and reflect on staff practice on a regular basis to ensure that every child is fully supported in their learning and development with high quality teaching
- The managers have a comprehensive reflection cycle in place and review their practice under the Ofsted inspection headings. They know the nursery extremely well and have a development plan in place to ensure that progress is continually made.
- Staff performance is fully supported with a full induction programme. Regular observation of staff practice takes place and staff are coached and mentored by the managers and more experienced staff. In addition, a programme of training is in place, this ensures that practice is up to date and continually improving. However, there is opportunity to streamline staff supervision so that all staff understand how they are supported to improve practice.
- The managers are highly organised and have high expectation of themselves and others. They invest time in the staff to ensure that they understand what is expected of them. They fully understand the link between happy staff and children who are happy, motivated learners.
- Partnerships with parents are of an exceptionally high standard. Leaders seek the views of parents in a variety of ways, including through the active parents committee in place.
- In addition, any concerns that parents may have are quickly acted upon where appropriate. The nursery is very well resourced and provides children with an excellent stimulating learning environment which supports their learning and development in all areas.
- Parents are very complementary about the nursery. They feel that their children are happy, safe and enjoy learning at the nursery. Parents also like being able to log on to the online learning journey to see what their child has been doing and how they are progressing at the nursery. This gives them reassurance that their children are happy. It also gives them an idea of what children have been doing at nursery during the day and how they can continue to support children's learning at home.
- Further information is shared with parents in a variety of ways including, in regular newsletter, parents' evenings and emails. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the work of the nursery as well as with their child's learning and development.
- Safeguarding is effective. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child.
- The nursery is bright and welcoming, managers are fully committed to ensure that the resources are of the highest quality to enhance children's care and learning.
- Managers seek out external support from the local authority and other professionals to ensure that the nursery is continually improving and that the quality of practice is of the highest standards. This includes visiting other settings and developing all aspects of the nursery so that the children gain the best possible outcome, for example, the food initiative with local supermarkets which is helping to minimise food waste and continue to provide high quality food to the children and families.

### Areas to develop:

- Consider formalizing staff performance management by developing staff supervision processes so that all staff fully understand the processes in place.
- Consider adding additional information to the development plan about how you have decided upon your areas of improvement.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

#### Strengths:

- Staff have a very clear understanding of how children learn and develop. They provide a highly stimulating environment for children to develop and learn. They create activities that promote a sense of awe and wonderment and children are eager to interact and get involved.
- Staff provide activities both within children's experiences and beyond. In particular, the centre piece activities provide 'wow factor' like the 'winter wonder land' activity. 'Provocations' and 'invitations' are used to full effect to engage children with highly appropriate learning experiences.
- There is excellent balance between adult led and child led activities. The educational programmes provide interest and challenge to children across all areas of learning. Practice at the nursery fully embraces the Early Years Foundation Stage and staff understand their responsibilities in order to support children's learning and development.
- Staff have high but realistic expectations of children based on accurate assessments of children's skills and development. This means that the staff know the children exceptionally well and activities are planned that follow children's interests and are highly appropriate for children's age and stage of development. Children with additional needs and their parents are very well supported by staff who are highly skilled and experienced in this field so that all children make rapid progress from their starting points.
- The quality of teaching is consistently of an exceptionally high standard and is inspirational. Staff engage children at the children's height and level and learning is great fun. The characteristics of effective learning are fully embedded in practice, for example, children greatly enjoy using their imagination in home corner play and use a menu to help their guests choose what they want to eat. They are encouraged to use their communication and thinking skills and have fun. Children are fully engaged in the activity, they are extremely motivated to learn and they are appropriately challenged to think about the problems they are faced with. As a result, children are greatly motivated, inspired and learning is accelerated.
- Staff are extremely skilled in supporting children to flourish in their communication and language skills. Staff are trained in Early Language Development Programmes and use these programmes to further support children's speech and language development. Every opportunity is taken to ensure that children acquire excellent, listening, attention and speaking skills. Staff sing songs with children in all age groups and singing can be heard all over the nursery. This also supports children's communication and language acquisition and the children have great fun and enjoyment.

### Areas to develop:

NA

**Personal development, behaviour and welfare**  
**Strengths:**

- There is a well-established highly qualified staff team and the key person system in place is effective at supporting children's well-being. This also helps to ensure that firm attachments are formed between staff and children. As a result, children's confidence and self-esteem is exceptionally well supported and children are confident, motivated and curious learners.
- Positive behaviour management is supported with policies and procedures so that all staff understand the expectations. Staff teach the children the basics including good table manners and how to be polite and kind to their friends.
- Children's learning and health benefit greatly from their use of the well resourced outside play area which is used to enhance their learning in all areas. Children develop their physical skills with opportunities to run around, balance, jump, climb and ride on trikes and bikes. There is also opportunity to dig and to extend learning in the outside kitchen area. In addition, older children go on daily morning runs and access the well-equipped wood work bench.
- Staff gather detailed information on entry so that children's learning is fully supported from the start. Regular observations and monitoring of children's learning and development takes place. Staff plan for children's next steps to ensure good progress. As a result, children make excellent progress.
- Nutrition and food are at the heart of the nursery meals are nutritious and freshly prepared on the premises and children appear to thoroughly enjoy their food. This helps to develop healthy life styles.
- Children queue up for their meals and are encouraged to pour their own drinks at meal times and to tidy their plates away after eating. Older children help to set the tables and assist the staff at these times. This helps to develop their independence and self-help skills.
- Funding is used effectively to enhance children's learning. Additional staff are deployed to ensure that funded children are fully supported and make good progress in their learning and development.
- First aid is given high priority and the nursery has recently successfully gained the recognition of a national quality award for first aid.
- High priority is given to staff and children's well-being, older children are encouraged to take part in daily mindfulness activities this helps them keep calm and staff are also encouraged to take care of their emotional health.
- Children have access to a well-equipped sensory room which helps to support their emotional development and also provides a place to relax and calm down.

**Areas to develop:**

- Consider developing a behaviour management role to support children's good behaviour still further.
- Consider reviewing the Two Year Check so that it is in line with guidance.

**Outcomes for children and other learners**

**Strengths:**

Children are highly motivated learners, they consistently demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning in the play and learning. All children thrive and make consistently rapid progress in relation to their starting points including those who have additional needs or in receipt of funding. They develop positive attitudes to learning and acquire a wide range of skills in preparation for school.

**Areas to develop:**

NA

**Joint Observation**

**Age group: Babies**

**Time observed: 10.15**

Sensory activity with coloured rice

**Summary of key strengths:**

The member of staff knows children extremely well and engages them at their particular level of development. She follows their lead, for example, when children say something she instinctively repeats and extends the words and encourages the children with lots of praise.

The member of staff positions herself at child height and gains good eye contact with all the children. Children are fully engaged with this activity and explore the resources fully. There were lots of opportunity for learning in the following areas- C&L, PD, PSED, & MD. Lots of open-ended questions were asked, for example, 'what will happen if...' and 'how did you do...' Children were encouraged to co-operate with their peers and the join in with the activity. The member of staff fully engaged the children for some considerable time.

Using Ofsted definition of teaching the manager assessed the activity as being of high quality which the associate agreed with.

**Areas for development:**

The manager identified some areas of possible improvement which included: -

Ensuring that another member of staff is on standby to support the activity, for example, sweeping up the rice on the floor so that all health and safety aspects are covered and accidents are limited as far as possible.

Having a dust pan and brush to hand.

Perhaps the activity could have been offered even lower and put on the floor in a tough tray so that the smallest children can reach the activity.

Add different size containers to the activity for more variety.

## Overview of the Visit

Thank you for inviting me into your fabulous nursery. I really appreciate the time that you and your staff team have generously shared with me in order to answer my many questions.

I observed a variety of high-quality practice; the quality of teaching is strong throughout the nursery and you have exceptionally talented members of staff. My over-riding image of the nursery is one of a very positive, high quality experiences for children and adults alike. You have created a warm nurturing environment where children are at the heart of the nursery. Staff enjoy their work and children are thriving. You have created a really special nursery with staff that has a can-do attitude. Well done!

A couple of areas were identified for development during my visit and were discussed during our feedback session and outlined above.

Reflecting on practice enables us to identify ways in which we can continue to develop our daily practice and I hope the observations and suggestions within this report and during my visit are helpful in further strengthening your already extremely high-quality practice and team.

Thank you for your hospitality and for looking after me so well, including the purchase on a new phone charger!

If you have any questions relating to the information in the report then please contact the NDNA.

Signed by: Gillian Kitchen

Date: 31.1.2019