

Inspection of Nunthorpe Children's Day Nursery

The Crescent, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 0JW

Inspection date:

23 September 2025

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children are not supervised effectively in the nursery and there are inconsistencies in staff's implementation of the nursery's transition procedures. During the inspection, an incident occurred where a child was unknowingly left unsupervised and was out of sight and hearing of staff. This breach of the requirements of the early years foundation stage means children's welfare is not assured.

Despite the breach, children are settled with key staff in their room and are enthusiastic to attend the nursery. Children behave well. Staff are kind, caring and nurturing towards children. They know how to meet their individual care needs. For instance, staff who work with babies know how they like to sleep and which comfort items they need. Other staff are aware of children's dietary and medical needs.

Since the last inspection, the staff team and leadership team have made a variety of improvements that have had a positive impact on children's learning. For instance, all children now benefit from an exciting and sequenced curriculum, which helps them to make good progress in relation to their starting points. Children are well prepared for the next stages in their learning and build strong foundations for the future. Staff have 'big aims' for children in each room and focus on supporting them to achieve these steps before they move on.

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

- Staff do not ensure children are in sight and hearing so that they are supervised effectively. They do not consistently follow their own procedures to carry out a headcount of children when they move between indoor and outdoor areas. This does not promote children's safety.
- Children develop good communication and language skills. Staff consistently model new words to them to develop their vocabulary. Older children show skill in using different Makaton signs and build on these during group times. However, during story time, staff focus on preparing the room for lunch, leaving one member of staff with the group. This has an impact on children's engagement in the story and they have difficulty maintaining their listening and attention skills.
- Staff are good role models for children and constantly offer praise and encouragement. This helps children to develop good levels of self-confidence and self-esteem. Young children learn how to share and take turns as they pour the coloured rice and water in the containers. Older children show good levels of independence and staff carefully prepare the environment to encourage them to make choices about their learning.
- Overall, staff have a clear picture of children's stages of development and know

what their next steps in learning are. Children show enthusiasm in their learning and persevere to develop their skills. For example, older babies reach out to hold staff's hands as they walk across the balancing beams. Staff clap and babies show delight as they run round to try again. However, staff do not consider some toddlers' individual learning needs during play. This means some experiences are the same for every child.

- Staff teach children about the importance of being healthy. They provide freshly cooked meals and offer children a wide range of fruit and vegetables. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise daily. Staff regularly take children on walks in the community and talk to them about healthy choices. Children develop good physical skills and learn about the world around them.
- The provider and the leadership team have supported staff's well-being and promoted their positive mental health. Staff say they feel valued here and have accessed a range of professional development to help them develop their skills and knowledge. Staff speak positively about the impact of the changes since the last inspection, particularly on children's exploration and play.
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported to make good progress. Staff are aware of their individual support plans and targets. They work alongside families and other professionals to meet children's needs consistently. Parents of children with SEND leave positive feedback about their experiences. They say staff have really supported them with referrals to other agencies and are happy with how much progress their children have made since they started.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

There is not an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
ensure children are always within sight or hearing of staff and improve staff's understanding of the transition procedures.	30/09/2025

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

- support staff to focus their teaching on younger children's individual learning needs during play
- reflect on the effectiveness of story time for young children, and consider the impact on their levels of engagement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	508281
Local authority	Redcar and Cleveland
Inspection number	10414838
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 5
Total number of places	76
Number of children on roll	136
Name of registered person	Nunthorpe Nurseries Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911209
Telephone number	01642 322580
Date of previous inspection	21 May 2025

Information about this early years setting

Nunthorpe Children's Day Nursery registered in 2001. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one at level 6 and two at level 5. The manager has a foundation degree in early years. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for all eligible 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.
- Joint observations were completed by the manager and inspector, indoors during a planned activity and story time.
- The inspector held a discussion with the manager in relation to the leadership and management of the nursery. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of recruitment, staff's qualifications and their suitability to work with children. She discussed children's learning and development with the staff team and nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and obtained written feedback for the inspection.

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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