

The Meadows Day Care Centre



Farriers Gate, New Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6QP

Inspection date	25 May 2018
Previous inspection date	11 September 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

- Staff get to know children well, and strategies, such as home visits prior to starting, help children to settle quickly in their new environment. They soon make friends and have a sense of belonging and pride in their new surroundings.
- The manager and staff monitor children's development effectively and ensure individual and groups of children make the expected, or better, progress at nursery.
- Older children communicate well with friends and staff alike. As they play, they share imaginative ideas and decide how to work collaboratively on shared goals. For example, children discuss how best to build a ramp for their toy cars and trucks.
- The standard of teaching is good. Staff know when to join in with children's play and when it is best to stand back and allow children to find out things for themselves. Staff provide appropriate comment and narrative as children play and this encourages children to reflect on their own experiences. For example, staff readily share their memories of playing on slides when they were young.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff develop strong relationships with parents, they have not found consistent ways to help all parents support their children's learning at home.
- Staff do not consistently make the best use of their knowledge and observations of children to help plan activities meticulously to match individual children's interests and promote their learning to the highest levels.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find innovative ways to engage all parents successfully in guiding their children's learning at home
- make the most of what is known about individual children's learning needs to plan precisely so specific areas of development can be targeted for really rapid progress.

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 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 and the chair of the committee. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a robust understanding of their responsibility to report concerns about children's welfare. Staff are vigilant to children's safety as they play and use hygienic practices to carry out care routines, such as nappy changing. Children calmly practise procedures, such as emergency evacuations, and demonstrate that they know what to do if they hear the alarm. Staff's backgrounds and suitability for their roles are established at the time of recruitment and verified regularly as a matter of course. Supervisory meetings are held frequently and the manager sets appropriate targets to ensure staff continually strive to improve their skills. Additional training is undertaken enthusiastically by staff and this has a good impact on the overall quality of the nursery. For example, staff learn how to support children's developing speech by attending training and workshops. Partnerships with outside professionals and providers are in place and support children's all-round development and well-being effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a stimulating environment that supports children's development in all areas of learning effectively. Children particularly appreciate the improvements made to the outside area where they can play and learn in all weather conditions. Children enjoy making marks using chalk on the paving and are fascinated to see how their shoes make prints after stepping onto the chalky surface. They learn about vegetables and fruit during focused activities and have a sense of achievement when they safely cut pieces for themselves. Children take part in group activities and enthusiastically join in with number songs and rhymes. Children concentrate well at these times and listen carefully to instructions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate their sense of security in the nursery and are happy to play independently. They attend to their own self-care needs, such as washing their hands and putting on shoes. Staff understand the need for young children to learn to socialise with others and use daily routines and activities to help them learn to share and take turns. Children behave well due to staff's sensitive interventions. Older children learn to negotiate with one another when difficulties arise during games.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy playing and learning at nursery. They follow the daily routines well and are keen to join in with group activities, such as circle time. Older children recognise their own name in writing and can successfully form letters to write it for themselves. Children are making good progress from their starting points and are gaining the skills needed for their next stage in development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221911
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1127521
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	The Meadows Day Centre Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519004
Date of previous inspection	11 September 2015
Telephone number	01354 696261

The Meadows Day Care Centre registered in 1998. It is run by a committee and employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, and the after-school club operates from 3pm to 6pm, during school term time. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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