

Meadowcroft Munchkins

Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre, 147 Meadowcroft, AYLESBURY,
Buckinghamshire, HP19 9HH



Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

2 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff provide a good range of learning experiences and activities for children that help them to make good progress, given their starting points.
- The manager and staff implement good systems for planning, assessing and tracking children's progress.
- Staff ensure that all areas for learning are well resourced across the indoor and outdoor environments to allow children to choose what they want to play with.
- Staff ask effective questions that make children think for themselves and help them learn through discussing their ideas.
- Staff establish strong partnerships with parents, schools and other professionals involved in the children's lives.
- The staff have a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. Staff know what action to take if they have concerns about child protection or a member of staff.
- Staff carry out effective daily risk assessments for the premises so that children can play safely and move freely between the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The motivated manager has a very clear vision for the setting. Self-evaluation is accurate and enables the setting to identify and prioritise areas for development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always plan opportunities for children to practise writing for a purpose.
- Children have some good opportunities to learn about the world in which they live, although staff do not plan activities to help children to learn about other people's beliefs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage children to write for different purposes during their play
- plan opportunities for children to learn about other people's beliefs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play hall and garden.
- The inspector had discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at observation files, tracking systems, the self-evaluation form, and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The quality of the educational programme is good and parents have many good opportunities to be involved in their child's learning. For example, they take activity bags home with items to talk about with their children. Staff plan activities based on the children's interests and, therefore, they are keen to be involved and to learn. There is a good balance between adult-led activities and those which children choose for themselves. The quality of teaching is good. Staff make effective use of questioning, and introduce new vocabulary to develop children's good communication and language skills. Children recognise their name, enjoy stories and writing activities. However, staff plan less opportunities for children to write for a purpose during their play, such as making shopping lists. Overall, children develop a good understanding of the world as they develop good technical skills and observe living things. However, staff do not plan many activities to help children learn about other people's beliefs and cultures. Children make good progress in mathematics as they count, sort and match objects in different ways.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

All children have an allocated key person who is responsible for coordinating their care, planning and assessing their progress. Enthusiastic staff help children to develop good independence skills, behaviour and social relationships in preparation for school. For example, children learn to put on their clothes, play cooperatively together and show kindness towards one another. There is a good range of resources and the learning environment successfully supports children's all-round development. Children develop good physical skills, indoors and outdoors. Staff support children to keep safe, learn about risk and healthy lifestyles. Children learn the rules to play safely, such as sitting down when cutting with scissors, and they follow good hygiene routines such as hand washing.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Leadership and management of the nursery are strong. The manager has a good understanding of her responsibilities in meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements, including rigorous recruitment and the ongoing suitability of staff. The manager monitors staff's performance and their professional development through observing practice, staff appraisals and meetings. There are suitable procedures in place in the event of staff underperformance. The manager monitors the delivery of the educational programmes and tracks children's progress closely to highlight possible gaps in their learning. Since the last inspection, the setting has maintained its good service. Staff have good opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills through training and they share what they learn with the staff team to continually improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY400415
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	831030
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	Rachel Louise Rayner Hillier
Date of previous inspection	2 March 2010
Telephone number	07955658478

Meadowcroft Munchkins registered in 2009. It is open Monday to Friday, term time only, from 8.30am until 3.15pm. The breakfast club operates from 8.30am to 9am, the morning sessions from 9am to 12 noon, lunch club from 12 noon to 1pm, and afternoon sessions operate from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. Of the nine staff working at the setting, eight hold relevant qualifications to level 3.

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