

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-school



Rathbone Pavillion, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 2BL

Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

15 October 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- The quality of teaching is strong. Staff set good examples for children and ask them questions to encourage discussion and extend thinking. They carry out thorough assessments of learning and development that they use to plan for further learning activities to ensure children make continuous progress.
- Staff form strong emotional bonds with children. As a result, children feel secure, separate from parents happily and settle quickly.
- Management values staff development. Staff receive regular meetings and training to enrich their practice and inspire them to provide better outcomes for children.
- Parents are happy with the service and staff effectively share children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not take all opportunities to promote children's independence by encouraging them to complete tasks that are within their capabilities. For example, they do not always remind children to tidy up and, at times, they clean children's noses and cut their toast for them without encouraging them to try for themselves.
- Displays of children's artwork generally feature the work completed as part of adult-led activities. This reduces opportunities for children to take pride in their own work and to further develop their sense of belonging.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more consistent opportunities for children to develop their independence during routine tasks and in their self-care
- celebrate children's own ideas and artistic achievements more fully to encourage their creativity and promote their self-esteem.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the areas of the premises children use.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nominated person.
- The inspector spoke to the nominated person and staff during the inspection to determine their knowledge.
- The inspector sampled policies and documents.

Inspector

Sara Hope

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a good range of educational programmes that support all areas of learning and development. Children enjoy interacting with other children and staff and establish strong friendships. Outside they develop their physical skills by setting up and using obstacle courses. They make marks on walls with paint rollers and water and staff support them to sound out letters and words. Children have a wide selection of dressing up clothes to use. They pretend to be doctors and nurses and bake imaginary cakes using play dough, putting them in the toy oven to bake. Staff have high, yet realistic expectations of what children can achieve. They make suggestions to further engage and motivate children and to effectively extend their play by adding new ideas. Children are enthusiastic learners, preparing them well for their future move to school.

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

Children are happy and play cooperatively. Staff encourage the use of good manners and praise children to reinforce positive behaviour. Staff deployment is effective and children are supervised well. Staff have a thorough knowledge of child protection procedures and understand how to keep children safe. Children chose healthy snacks, for example, they enjoy a choice of fruit or toast to eat. They have access to fresh drinking water at all times. Children know to wash and dry their hands after they use the toilet and before they eat. Staff provide a wide range of stimulating resources to meet children's needs.

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

Managers have a good understanding of their responsibilities as set out in the Early years Foundation Stage requirements. The pre-school is set up and put away each session. Staff routinely check environments and resources to make sure they remain safe and children are not put at harm. Staff carry out regular fire drills with children. This helps children learn how to keep themselves safe and become familiar with the pre-school's procedures. Managers evaluate the service they provide to make sure improvements are made to support better outcomes for children. Staff, parents and children all contribute to this process and their suggestions are valued. Parents and children have good opportunities to complete questionnaires and to discuss their ideas with staff. Staff work closely with parents, schools, speech and language teams and local doctors to make sure interventions for children are gained quickly. Therefore, gaps in children's progress are effectively minimised.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY254143
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	826551
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 October 2008
Telephone number	01256 398172

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School registered in 2003. It is located in North Waltham, Basingstoke. It opens Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm, term time only. Lunch club is available each day. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. A total of six members of staff are employed to work with children, five of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications between level 3 and level 5.

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