

Cowdown Day Nursery

Cowdown Farm House, Cowdown Lane, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 6LE



Inspection date

25 November 2015

Previous inspection date

17 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 ensure that children of all ages have numerous opportunities to be outside and active in a well-equipped, stimulating outdoor environment.
- Staff know the children well. They make regular observations and assessments of children's learning and use this information to plan interesting and challenging activities and learning experiences. All children make good progress from their starting points.
- The leadership team demonstrates a clear drive for ongoing development of the nursery and staff performance. Leaders have made good progress in improving the areas identified as weaker at the last inspection.
- Staff have effective partnerships with parents and other professionals. They engage all parents well in their children's learning.
- Staff are motivated and actively involved in children's play. They help children to be happy and confident, behave well and build good relationships with their key person.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of all opportunities to enhance children's learning about their communities and the differences between themselves and others.
- Younger children have fewer opportunities to explore a wide range of media and materials.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the programme for understanding the world by increasing opportunities for children to find out about the wider community and differences between themselves and others
- increase opportunities for younger children to explore with and experience a wide range of media and materials.

Inspection activities

- The inspector met with the provider and manager to discuss the management of the nursery.
- The inspector observed activities and staff interactions with children inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's records, planning and staff suitability records.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the nursery.

Inspector

Dominique Allotey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders understand requirements and make sure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Staff have a good understanding of the safeguarding procedures and protect children's welfare. Consequently, safeguarding is effective. Staff have supervision and appraisal meetings with managers to promote their professional development, which has a positive impact on outcomes for children. For example, staff have improved their knowledge of how to support children's language development since the previous inspection, so children make good progress and are better prepared for school. Improved methods for performance management enable staff to work well as a team and develop consistency of care and learning across the nursery. Suitably qualified staff reflect on their practice regularly and demonstrate good capacity for continuous improvement. Leaders review the progress that different groups of children make and identify any action needed to close gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

As a result of effective teaching, children make consistently good progress. Staff observe children as they play to ensure they are making progress across all areas. They use their observations to complete tracking forms, to check children's learning is in line with expected developmental milestones. Staff review children's progress regularly; they quickly identify any gaps in children's learning and put effective strategies in place to help them catch up. Staff help children persist with activities and gain a sense of achievement, providing support and positive encouragement for all. They support all children to develop good language and communication skills. For example, they use sign language, songs and stories to introduce new vocabulary and to encourage children to communicate.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy a wide range of experiences, both indoors and outdoors, and overall have access to good-quality toys and equipment. Staff provide a warm, safe environment. They encourage children to develop their independence. For example, they encourage children to do things for themselves, such as using the bathroom and taking coats on and off. Children enjoy healthy meals that are freshly cooked on the premises. Older and younger children develop positive relationships and siblings have time to play together. For example, there are dedicated sessions where all ages play together.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and staff successfully promote their learning and development in all areas. Overall, children are gaining the necessary skills to prepare them well for their next stage in learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507866
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1007249
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Cowdown Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	17 February 2015
Telephone number	01264 363098

Cowdown Day Nursery registered in 2001. It operates from within the grounds of the provider's home in a converted farmhouse and attached bungalow on the outskirts of Andover, Hampshire. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The nursery operates from 8am to 6pm each weekday for 50 weeks of the year. A total of 14 staff are employed to work with the children; of whom, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The provider, manager and one member of staff hold relevant level 4 qualifications.

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