

Snowden Hill Nursery

Snowden Hill, Gravesend, DA11 9AE



Inspection date	5 September 2016
Previous inspection date	9 November 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

- Leaders and managers have made significant improvements to the provision since the last inspection. For example, additional well-qualified staff are now in place and the monitoring of staff practice and educational programmes is working effectively.
- The management team encourages staff to continue to develop their skills. For example, staff complete training on how to manage children's behaviour, and they use individual and team meetings to help develop a consistent approach. Children behave well.
- Staff form strong partnerships with parents and keep them well informed about their children's progress. For example, staff give parents daily feedback about their children's day and offer them support to help them continue their learning at home.
- Partnerships with other professionals, such as local organisations, specialists and staff at schools, are good. They all work very well together to help meet children's individual care and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not yet consistently use the information from their observations and assessments to help them more precisely identify and plan for children's next steps in learning.
- Staff do not always fully encourage children's awareness and understanding of number recognition, weight and quantity during activities, to help consistently build on their understanding of mathematical ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further the use of ongoing observation and assessment to gain the most precise picture of children's individual learning and development
- make greater use of opportunities to build on children's awareness of mathematical ideas during activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the provider and discussed the outcomes for children with her.
- The inspector held a meeting with the managers. She looked at relevant documentation, such as children's records, self-evaluation, policies and procedures, and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector talked with a few members of staff about some of the procedures at the setting, for example, those relating to safeguarding and behaviour management.
- The inspector took account of the views of a selection of parents.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team gives good attention to safeguarding children and child protection. For example, suitability checks are completed to help ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. All staff keep their skills up to date, such as through attending training sessions, including those relating to safeguarding and behaviour management. This knowledge helps them identify and support children who may be at risk from harm. Management coaches staff effectively and all required records and documents, such as accident records, are completed as required and kept readily available. Staff identify and minimise potential risks to help ensure that the premises are safe and secure for children to use. Managers, staff, children and parents all contribute their views to the self-evaluation process. This helps to identify where improvements to the setting and staff practice can be made.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Parents contribute to the initial assessments as their children start at the nursery. This helps staff to plan activities and experiences that include children's interests and needs. Management and staff identify gaps in children's learning and implement plans to help them close these. Staff interact effectively with children as they play. They talk about what is happening during activities and listen patiently to children's responses. There are good opportunities for children of all ages to bake simple dishes, such as pizza. They learn how to mix and shape dough and explore the different tastes, before and after cooking. Staff provide a wide range of opportunities for children to extend their early literacy skills, such as practising their writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff work tirelessly to help ensure all children are included. They provide a wide range of resources and activities outdoors for children. For example, children can take risks as they climb up the slide or use the mud kitchen, and use tools to gather natural materials to mix together. Staff help children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, children enjoy fresh air, physical exercise and healthy, balanced meals and snacks. Children, even younger ones, serve their own food and know how to use the 'Tidy Station' when clearing away. Staff respond in a positive and sensitive manner and children grow in confidence.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress in their learning. Children learn to be independent, capable and self-assured. They listen to instructions and respond appropriately. They show a strong sense of belonging and learn to make friends with others. Children enjoy singing and stories, and staff use these activities to help develop their language and communication skills well. Children gain the skills they need for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484166
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1032872
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	0 - 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	96
Name of registered person	Educatio Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910270
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2015
Telephone number	01322624301

Snowden Hill Nursery, known formerly as Meadows Nursery, registered in 2014. It is owned by a limited company, Educatio Ltd. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round with the exception of bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 18 staff; of these, one holds a qualification at level 5, one is qualified to level 4, 10 hold a qualification at level 3, and three hold a qualification at level 2.

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