

Munns Farm Day Nursery

Munns Farm Day Nursery, Munns Farm, Cole Green, HERTFORD, SG14 2NL



Inspection date	14 December 2016
Previous inspection date	13 November 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Managers do not use supervision constructively to improve staff's knowledge, understanding and practice. The variable quality of teaching is not effectively monitored to ensure that underperformance is tackled swiftly.
- Ongoing observations and assessments are not used effectively. Staff do not consistently identify precise next steps in learning that inform the planning and teaching of suitably challenging activities for all children.

It has the following strengths

- The premises is secure. Staff are well deployed throughout the rooms to meet the ratio requirements and provide support for children's care needs.
- Children are well behaved. They follow instructions from staff and cooperate with reasonable request, such as helping to tidy up when it is time for lunch. Children are well mannered, using please and thank you when speaking to adults and children.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Settling-in procedures and follow-up discussions help staff and parents to work together to support and encourage children's confidence. Parents praise the staff for the individual attention they give children.
- The well organised key-person system supports young children to form secure attachments and promotes their care and well-being. All children's personal, social and emotional development are warmly supported.
- Managers have responded positively to parent feedback about their children's move between rooms. They have reviewed and implemented more inclusive and supportive practices that help the whole family adjust to a new room and key person.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	Due Date
■ implement effective supervision and monitoring of staff to identify inconsistent practice and training needs, and use this to improve the quality of teaching	15/02/2017
■ improve the use of ongoing observations and assessments to inform planning and extend children's learning so they all make the best progress possible.	11/01/2017

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors carried out joint observations with the nursery managers.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the nursery managers and the provider. They reviewed documentation related to the day-to-day operation of the nursery and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors looked at the nursery's self-evaluation, planning documents and a sample of children's progress records.
- The inspectors spoke to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspectors took account of the view of parents spoken to at the inspection and from written feedback.

Inspector

Alison Reeves and Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The new management team and administration support staff are now established. They have reviewed the processes for the day-to-day operations at the nursery. The provider is ambitious and has high expectations of what can be achieved. However, the arrangements for monitoring staff practice and the quality of teaching are not sufficiently embedded to bring about swift and sustained improvements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are trained for the role of designated person to support the wider team in recording and reporting any child protection concerns. Nursery staff maintain effective relationships with the schools that children move on to. Communication with parents continues to develop and if parents have concerns, they can now go to the parent liaison officer.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff do not consistently make the best use of the opportunities to extend children's learning. Some experiences provided for children are not well thought out and children do not get the most from them. Observations are completed frequently. However, in some cases the next steps in learning do not match children's needs well enough to effectively support them in making better than typical progress. Children are provided with activities that interest them and a wide range of resources are accessible. Children enjoy pretend play, where they share food and drink with staff and other children. There is appropriate support for children who speak English as an additional language. Staff promote the use of sign language to support children's speech. Children confidently share their Christmas experiences with others as they talk about what they have been doing with their families.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's physical development is good. Staff provide daily opportunities for them to enjoy fresh air and exercise, and walks in the local community. The provider has extended and enhanced the outdoor areas to provide children with interesting resources and large open spaces in which to explore and be physically active. Children were consulted and their ideas incorporated into the plans for the new area. Staff take babies outside so they too can experience fresh air and sunlight on a daily basis. Children learn about safe practices. For example, when they play a traffic light game, they stop when someone shouts red and run when they hear the word green. Children's health and dietary needs are met well. Staff draw up health care plans to ensure that children's individual needs are met. Care is taken to provide healthy, balanced meals that children enjoy.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are making typical progress despite the variable quality of teaching. Staff gain information about what they know and can do when they first start to attend and children continue to achieve the expected level of attainment for their age. They learn to manage their self-care needs and clothing. They demonstrate their ability to sit and listen as part of a large group. This helps them to prepare for learning in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY342102
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1079809
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 - 5
Total number of places	172
Number of children on roll	185
Name of registered person	L & D Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP905703
Date of previous inspection	13 November 2013
Telephone number	01707 392999 or 07939 409574

Munns Farm Day Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 40 members of childcare staff. Of these, 30 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6.30pm throughout the year. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

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