

The Meadows Nursery School

9 Brand Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 9PX



Inspection date

4 April 2017

Previous inspection date

8 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 are good role models for children and gently remind them of their expectations. Children behave well and show care and consideration for others. For example, they make positive friendships, and happily share and take turns during games.
- Parent partnerships are strong. Staff help parents to fully engage in all aspects of their children's learning. For example, they regularly share children's next steps in learning and give parents ideas on how they can continue to support children's development at home.
- Staff regularly observe children's learning and assess their individual development closely. They use their good knowledge of the children to help plan a challenging and engaging learning environment. All children make good progress from the starting points in their learning.
- The manager builds strong links with other professionals to help meet the needs of all children. For example, she works closely with Health Visitors to share information and complete the progress checks for the two-year-old children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not fully monitor and track all of the different groups of children to identify any gaps in their learning and help them make even better progress.
- Occasionally, staff do not make the best use of the questions they ask children to fully encourage their thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the current systems for monitoring groups of children's progress to help raise outcomes to the highest level
- continue to develop the good staff teaching to give children more consistent opportunities to develop their thinking skills even more.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions in relation to children's learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work closely together and accurately evaluate the effectiveness of the provision. They regularly identify further improvements to help children's outcomes. For example, staff now run daily literacy sessions to support children's understanding of letters and their sounds. The manager is supportive and provides staff with training and coaching to help improve their practice and teaching skills. For example, after attending a course on 'funky foods', staff have introduced exciting new healthy cooking activities to help engage children's interest. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are well trained and have a thorough understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's understanding of the world well. For example, children enjoyed exploring vegetables they had recently planted. Staff encouraged children to discuss what plants need to grow and to compare how tall they were growing. Staff effectively use children's interests to help engage them in their learning. For instance, children enthusiastically identified insects with magnifying glasses and listened carefully to the different sounds they could hear in the garden. Staff support children's mathematical skills well. For example, two-year-old children named the shapes of wooden blocks as they built and pre-school children confidently counted to 10 in English and in French. This also helps them learn about other peoples' differences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very happy and secure. They build strong bonds with the caring and attentive staff. Children develop good self-esteem and proudly celebrate together when they finish making sandcastles. Staff have improved the way they support children's understanding of healthy lifestyles and early independence skills during mealtimes. For example, children now help to prepare their snack and wash up their own plates when they finish. Children confidently talk about healthy food and exercise being good for their bodies. They enjoy plenty of physical play outdoors and build strong skills. For example, children confidently ride on balance-bicycles and hit balls around the garden with bats.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well motivated in their learning and show good concentration. For example, they took their time carefully threading string through holes in boxes. Children communicate well and happily share their interests. They develop strong mathematical skills and confidently worked out that if one more child arrived, their group of eight children would become nine. Children develop secure early literacy skills. For example, they enjoy listening to stories and begin to write their names. Children are well prepared for their next stages in learning and their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511254
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1091192
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 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	82
Name of registered person	Places For Children Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903812
Date of previous inspection	8 April 2015
Telephone number	01323 500061

The Meadows Nursery School registered in 1989. It is located in Eastbourne, East Sussex. The nursery is open between 8am and 6pm each weekday, throughout the year. The provider employs eight staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or above. This includes one member of staff who holds a level 6 qualification. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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