

Meadowcroft Munchkins

Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre, 147 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire, HP19 9HH



Inspection date

10 May 2017

Previous inspection date

3 June 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

- The manager accurately evaluates the effectiveness of the provision and identifies areas for further improvement. She monitors the development of individual and groups of children closely and makes positive changes to close any gaps in learning.
- Staff work very effectively with other professionals and parents to improve outcomes for children. All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those who learn English as an additional language make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- The good key-person system helps to promote children's emotional well-being. Children develop secure and trusting relationships with staff and each other.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff keep parents very well informed about their children's development and suggest helpful ways to encourage learning at home.
- Staff effectively support children's physical well-being. For example, children spend plenty of time outdoors, playing in the well-resourced garden.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to support some children, in particular those who are less sure of what to do, to involve them more fully in ongoing and purposeful play.
- Systems to monitor staff do not yet have a strong enough emphasis on incisively evaluating their practice to help raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and develop further the organisation of activities to involve children more consistently in ongoing purposeful play
- build on existing staff monitoring systems to focus more precisely on helping them to raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the pre-school manager, who is also the provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and her deputy. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager is dedicated and committed to her role. She uses many methods to help evaluate the provision, including gaining views from staff, parents and support from the local authority advisor. The manager and her team are proactive in making positive changes that help to benefit children. For example, they have been involved in training, which has improved their practice and enhanced how they communicate with children. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding procedures and who to contact to raise any concerns. Their knowledge is constantly tested, for example, they have regular training and quizzes. Staff understand how to successfully protect children's welfare and help them stay safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager and staff closely monitor and track children's progress. This highlights any gaps in development promptly and helps support children to catch up with their learning. Staff provide an interesting environment where children confidently explore and make independent decisions about their play. For example, children use tools, such as paintbrushes, rollers and rolling pins to make marks and explore mixing colours. They learn how ice melts as they hold ice blocks filled with toy fish and feel the drips of water on their hands. Staff encourage children to use descriptive words as they investigate the resources and the coloured paint they have created.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and have a good understanding of staff's expectations. Children show care and consideration towards each other and learn to take turns. Staff provide a good range of resources and activities that reflect and value the diversity of children's home lives and experiences. They help children gain an understanding of people, their community and the wider world. Staff support children's understanding about the importance of healthy lifestyles well. For example, children confidently talk about milk helping their bodies to grow and staff regularly discuss the importance of dental hygiene with children.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain a range of good abilities to support their move to the next stage in their learning. For instance, they develop good early reading skills, such as recognising letters and selecting their names to register in the mornings. Children develop good independence skills. For example, they take an active role in buttering their bread and using tongs to select their own fruit for snack and confidently choose their own play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY400415
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1094077
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Rachel Louise Rayner Hillier
Registered person unique reference number	RP515507
Date of previous inspection	3 June 2015
Telephone number	07955658478

Meadowcroft Munchkins registered in 2009 and is located in the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre, in Meadowcroft, in Aylesbury. It is open Monday to Friday, term time only, from 8.30am to 1pm. The breakfast club operates from 8.30am to 9am, the morning sessions from 9am to midday and lunch club operates from midday to 1pm. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years, and is in receipt of early years pupil premium funding. Of the eight staff working at the setting, four hold relevant qualifications to level 3 or above, with one member of staff currently working towards a relevant qualification.

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