

Old Macdonald's Day Nursery

Darley Ash Farm, Chipperfield Road, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,
HP3 0JW



Inspection date	5 June 2017
Previous inspection date	1 September 2016

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	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

- The well-qualified team of staff and the ambitious manager have successfully addressed the action raised at the previous inspection. For example, robust measures are now in place to record and monitor children's attendance throughout the day.
- Children and their families form warm and caring bonds with their key person. For example, key persons visit children in their own homes prior to attending the nursery. Children also build strong family bonds and secure relationships with each other. The open arrangement of some rooms enables children to play together and staff organise dedicated time for siblings to regularly visit each other.
- Staff plan a wealth of stimulating and challenging learning activities that reflects children's interests. For example, babies have a wonderful time using all of their senses to explore play foam. Older children are excited to visit the local farm to listen for sounds. They make suggestions of words that rhyme with the sounds that they hear.
- Visits within the local community enhance children's awareness of the wider world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The newly introduced arrangement for monitoring groups of children's progress is not yet highly effective in precisely identifying their ongoing development in learning.
- Staff working with the younger children do not make the best possible use of the stimulating outdoor space to support those who prefer to learn in this environment and promote their good health.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the new arrangement in place so that the ongoing progress of groups of children is more precisely monitored
- extend opportunities for younger children to access the outdoor space.

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 spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspectors completed joint observations with the manager and reviewed how the nursery reflects upon the service it offers.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manager and the provider. They looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are very aware of the procedures for identifying and responding to any concerns about a child's welfare. The manager regularly monitors staff through frequent observations of their practise and supervision meetings. Staff attend a wide range of training courses to continually enhance the quality of their teaching. They demonstrate that they are happy in their roles and have high expectations of themselves. The whole staff team is reflective and regularly evaluates the provision it offers. Parents speak very highly of the nursery. They regard staff as an extension of their own family and appreciate the ideas to extend their children's learning at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children are motivated and inquisitive learners in this welcoming nursery. Babies giggle with delight as they notice their reflection in the mirror. They discover how to create more bubbles by splashing in the water and develop good control and coordination of their hands as they use small nets to scoop up toy animals. Younger children use their vivid imagination and pretend that a plastic plate is a steering wheel as they join in with the words and actions to a familiar song. Older children are excited to use the telescopes they have previously made to search for treasure hidden in the garden. All staff skilfully promote children's communication and language skills. For example, staff introduce babies and younger children to new descriptive words, such as sparkly and shiny. Older children use complex sentences to describe their actions as they work out how to use a hand-held juicer to squeeze the juice from oranges, lemons and limes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children positively benefit from staff being very good role models. They behave well and use good manners. All children are confident and relish in the responsibility to carry out age-appropriate tasks. They receive clear messages about the importance of a healthy diet. Older children gain a good awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe. For example, they help staff to complete the daily risk assessments. Children develop good physical skills. For example, older children pedal tricycles and climb on large apparatus in the garden. Babies develop strength in their legs in preparation for walking.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in relation to their starting points. For example, younger children learn to serve themselves healthy meals and are able to manage their own outer clothing. Older children solve mathematical problems, link letters to sounds and understand how stories are sequenced. They gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	129381
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1074288
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	74
Number of children on roll	147
Name of registered person	Old Macdonald's Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP523462
Date of previous inspection	1 September 2016
Telephone number	01442 834118

Old MacDonald's Day Nursery registered in 1998. The nursery employs 34 members of childcare staff. Of these, 25 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including one who holds early years professional status. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 7pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. It provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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