

Head Start Day Nursery

The Old School, Milton Keynes Village Hall, Willen Road, Milton Keynes, MK10 9AF



Inspection date

8 November 2017

Previous inspection date

8 January 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 quality of teaching throughout the nursery is of a consistently high standard. The committed staff team is passionate about the support they give to all children and ensure they are well prepared for their next steps in learning.
- Staff have developed the observation, assessment and planning systems to accurately monitor children's progress. They quickly identify weaker areas in children's learning, so that all children make good progress relative to their starting points.
- Children respond well to the warmth and affection offered by their key person. Their emotional well-being is effectively supported and they learn to be kind and considerate to each other.
- Staff build strong partnerships with parents. This ensures parents feel comfortable talking with staff and are kept well informed of all aspects of their child's learning and development.
- Children are happy and confident. They are keen learners who enjoy their time in the stimulating and nurturing learning environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some opportunities are missed for children to practise their reading and writing skills within everyday activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to further practice their literacy skills during a wide range of daily activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents to check how well staff are keeping children safe.
- The inspector discussed a sample of children's records with staff and reviewed how effectively they use their assessments to plan for individual children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager and discussed children's learning and development.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff at convenient times and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sue Bayliss

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The reflective leadership team has high expectations for all children. They work well together to ensure self-evaluation processes are accurate and include the views of all staff, parents and children. The manager is passionate about the nursery and has high expectations of staff. She supports staff to develop their skills. For example, by enabling them to undertake higher level qualifications and to share the knowledge gained with the whole staff team. The manager has strengthened staff performance further by carrying out observations of teaching. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and know the steps to take if they are concerned about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are enthusiastic and work exceptionally well as a team. All adults have a good understanding of children's next steps and careful planning ensures the activities on offer reflect children's interests, as well as supporting their next development steps. Staff plan challenging activities that support children to develop good mathematical skills and extend their mathematical language. For example, children are supported to observe the similarities between dinosaurs and to compare their sizes. Adults extend children's vocabulary as they talk about the shape of each dinosaur and how it adapted to its environment and its food sources. Adults act as good role models to children as they support their developing communication skills. They teach children to take turns, listen to one another and to reflect on and question each other's ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff plan the space available very well to create a stimulating and nurturing learning environment where all children flourish. Staff explain boundaries to children in a way that they understand and children behave very well. Children are learning to be independent. For example, as they proudly pour their drinks and rinse their plates after their snack. Interesting themes of learning help children develop an awareness of different cultures and a respect for each other's beliefs. Children demonstrate curiosity as they learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others. Children have good opportunities to play with natural resources and to explore the seasonal changes in plants and trees. For example, they have a great deal of fun as they dig in the soil and rake up the leaves. They are excited by the feel of leaves under their feet and throw them in the air to explore their autumn colours. They have good opportunities to develop their muscles as they enjoy the physical challenges in the nursery garden and the local park.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are eager, highly motivated and interested in what they are learning. Adults support children to make decisions, play imaginatively and develop their self-confidence. All children make good progress and are building strong skills to support them in their next stage of learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365866
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	1085880
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	53
Name of registered person	Head Start Day Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP908343
Date of previous inspection	8 January 2015
Telephone number	01908 662422

Head Start Nursery registered in 2007 and it is one of four nurseries run by Head Start. The nursery is open during term time. It operates from 8.30am to 2.45pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 8:30am to 1.30pm on Tuesday. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs seven members of staff. Of these, six staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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