

Meaford Day Nursery

Meaford Nursery School, Meaford, STONE, Staffordshire, ST15 0PX



Inspection date

12 April 2018

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 expert knowledge and skills of the leadership team are used to provide high levels of support and coaching for staff. They inspire and help staff to be effective teachers.
- The manager closely monitors children's achievements. She quickly recognises where they may be slow to achieve, and ensures activities and experiences are planned to close any gaps in learning. The effective partnerships with parents and other professionals ensure all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, are supported to make good progress.
- Throughout the nursery there is a strong and effective focus placed on promoting children's literacy skills. Children are making significant progress in this area of learning.
- All staff provide a welcoming and nurturing environment. They are calm, caring, enthusiastic and playful. Staff give children all the support they need to become settled and secure. Children develop strong attachments to staff.
- Self-evaluation is firmly embedded in practice and leads to well-targeted action plans which are continually improving experiences for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children in the baby room do not always have as many rich opportunities as older children to enjoy and play in the outdoor environment.
- The arrangements to exchange information with parents whose children only attend one day each week are not fully effective to ensure these children benefit from continuity in their learning.

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 babies to play outdoors to further support their learning
- enhance the arrangements to exchange information with parents whose children attend one day each week, to further support continuity in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in the baby, toddler, pre-school and outdoor areas and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector had a meeting with the manager, early years coordinator and deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and checked the suitability of persons working on the premises.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their written views provided by the manager.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The highly committed leadership team has a vision to provide the best levels of care and learning for children. They are highly focused on providing an array of activities and experiences for children, to motivate and inspire them to be continually engaged in playing and learning. Parents are extremely complimentary of staff and the progress their children make. Safeguarding is effective. Staff receive ongoing training and support to make sure they fully understand their child protection roles and responsibilities. All necessary steps are taken to ensure the environment is kept safe and secure for children to play safely. A programme of ongoing maintenance and refurbishment ensures all areas are organised to provide good-quality care and learning for children. Robust recruitment and ongoing checks help to ensure adults are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff explain and demonstrate skills to help children build on what they already know and can do. The variety of activities on offer to children stimulates their drive to explore, experiment and play creatively and imaginatively. There is an effective balance between child-initiated activities and adult-led sessions that are focused on accelerating children's progress, particularly in areas such as literacy and physical development. During all activities staff model communication and language skills effectively. All staff show high levels of interest in what children say and do. Staff in pre-school continually challenge children to think and give their own explanations and ideas about what they are seeing and doing. Staff working with children under three years encourage children to explore the sounds they can make. They continually introduce vocabulary to help children use speech to describe what they are seeing and doing.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff successfully support children to develop good levels of independence and confidence. Children are eager to learn to manage their own needs. Older children enjoy undertaking safety checks in the garden and identifying what steps need to be taken, such as drying equipment, before children come out to play. Children develop good social skills and develop positive relationships with others. They are emotionally well prepared and eager for their move to the next room and school. Children develop healthy appetites and their individual dietary needs are well met, in partnership with parents.

Outcomes for children are good

All children develop a keen interest in looking at books and listening to stories. Some older children use their phonic knowledge to spell simple words. Older children have exceptional opportunities to learn first hand about nature. Each day they collect eggs from the chickens that they help to care for and they collect and prepare produce from the nursery vegetable gardens. Children develop good levels of confidence and skills in controlling their bodies. Older children learn to move their bodies in water and younger children learn to manipulate and use a host of resources, including squeezing and rolling dough to music. Children in baby room develop confidence and independence to explore.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY498885
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1039932
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	64
Number of children on roll	106
Name of registered person	Meaford Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901039
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01785812578

Meaford Day Nursery registered in 2016. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 6pm, all year round. It employs 23 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3 and 5. The manager holds early years professional status.

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