

Great And Small Forest Education



Cottams Farm, Whalley Road, Clayton Le Moors, Accrington BB5 5SB

Inspection date	6 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is outstanding

- Staff make excellent use of the natural outdoors as a learning environment. They carry out robust assessments of children's learning and development and use these to ensure children are highly challenged. Children make excellent progress.
- Children have extremely high levels of safety awareness. For instance, staff teach them how to identify nettles and brambles to help to prevent scratches and stings. Children remind other children and staff of the dangers of touching these.
- Highly effective arrangements are in place to ensure parents play a full and active role in their child's early learning. Staff and parents share information about the progress children make at the forest school and at home extremely well. Parents are effusive in their praise of the provision.
- The inspiring management team and well-qualified staff are committed to making continuous improvements. Their passion, energy and high expectations of children supports the exceptional teaching to continually raise outcomes for children.
- Children's behaviour is excellent. They are kind and polite, show consideration towards others and are extraordinarily confident in the natural environment.
- Children are extremely happy and calm as they play. They attend sessions with their parents prior to starting and develop strong bonds with staff as they settle in.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build even further on the already high-quality teaching practices, to maintain the excellent outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and experiences available to children.
- The inspector observed interactions between children and staff and spoke to children.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector sampled documentation including evidence of the suitability of staff, children's records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to staff throughout the inspection and held a meeting with the provider.

Inspector
Linda Shore

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Management is highly successful in evaluating the provision. They want to find even more ways to improve staff's performance. For example, they plan to take advantage of spontaneous learning opportunities to maintain the already excellent quality of teaching. Children's progress and learning needs are closely monitored. Staff quickly identify any gaps in children's learning, research possible causes and fully involve parents as they work together with other agencies to help children to catch up. Safeguarding is effective. Robust recruitment and induction procedures ensure all staff are suitable. Staff are exceptionally well trained in understanding and implementing child protection procedures. They are extremely confident in identifying and supporting children who may be at risk of harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The quality of teaching is inspirational. Staff take every opportunity to explain, demonstrate and guide children to help build on what they already know and can do. They model communication and language skills exceptionally well. Staff consistently use skilful questioning that helps take children's thinking to a higher level. They are proficient at using their comprehensive assessments of children's development needs and interests to continually adapt and evolve activities to enhance their learning. Children learn mathematical concepts as they compare the size of sticks and decide if it is, 'Bigger or smaller than me'. Staff expertly teach children about the life cycle of wasps as they closely examine 'oak apples'. Children wade in the river and investigate how stones sink in the water. They explain that the leaves float because they have more air in them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children develop high levels of confidence in their physical abilities. They scramble up steep slopes, carefully consider the option of moving diagonally to make the climb easier and expertly lower themselves down using ropes. They have high levels of respect for the environment and creatures they find. Children handle slugs very carefully as they investigate how their eyes are on stalks. They return the creatures safely off the path and know to wash their hands afterwards. Children develop an excellent understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle. They eat healthy snacks in the fire square and staff talk to them about the nutritious foods they have selected.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are highly successful learners. They are consistently and successfully encouraged to think and explore the stimulating learning environment. They learn a vast range of valuable skills to support their future learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY554007
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10067188
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	8
Name of registered person	Great And Small Forest Education Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP554006
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07890538088

Great And Small Forest Education registered in 2017. The provision operates all year round, with sessions between 9.15am and 3.15pm, Monday to Friday. There are four members of staff, of these three hold relevant qualifications at level 5, level 6 and one member of staff holds qualified teacher status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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