

Stonewell Cottage Day Nursery

14 Church Hill, Moulton, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN3 7SW



Inspection date	2 November 2018
Previous inspection date	31 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The quality of teaching and staff's interactions with children are outstanding. Children experience exciting and varied activities that cover all areas of learning in depth. They are busy and engaged in the activities which are planned around their individual interests.
- Staff offer an inviting and homely environment with a strong family feel. Children arrive excited, happy and settle quickly. They benefit from the extremely calm, nurturing atmosphere and respond well to caring and sensitive interactions from their key person.
- Staff use a wide range of differing approaches to encourage parents' ongoing involvement in children's learning. For example, they write newsletters and share photographs and children's next steps in learning. This helps parents to significantly complement children's learning in the nursery.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary and they learn to cooperate and work together from an early age. Staff teach them to respect one another and value individuality and diversity. Children have the emotional readiness they need for future successful learning.
- The provider ensures that there are always more adults than required to surpass ratios. Staff are exceptionally well deployed and use highly effective risk assessments to help ensure children's safety at all times.
- Self-evaluation is exceptionally well organised and documented. Training meets the needs of staff and the nursery. Staff are highly motivated and work very effectively as a team to focus on improvements, so that the very high-quality provision is maintained.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider ways to enhance the already highly effective programme of staff development to consistently drive practice forward and sustain the outstanding quality of teaching.

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 completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at various points during the inspection.

Inspector

TRACY Hopkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The provider has recruited a manager with an extensive amount of experience within the early years sector. Together, they show passion and commitment for delivering the best possible service for children and their families. They lead a dedicated staff team of reflective practitioners who are extremely knowledgeable about child development. There is a highly structured and successful system to monitor staff's ongoing practice. Staff are extremely well supported to shape their own professional development. The manager recognises the importance of continuing to enhance all staff's knowledge, skills and expertise even further. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff put children's safety at the heart of everything they do. They have an excellent and up-to-date knowledge of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. They know how to keep children safe and what to do should they have a concern about a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff make the best possible use of their local surroundings in the village to enrich children's learning. Staff regularly take the children out of nursery for walks in the community. They visit the shops, church, veterinary surgery and residential home as well as many other local businesses and services. Children start to learn about self-care and get dressed in appropriate clothing to keep them warm and dry. While on a walk they are given the freedom to explore and collect sticks for their pretend bonfire while being closely supervised by staff. They compare the length of the sticks and decide which is biggest and smallest. Children listen to the sound as they crunch the leaves with their feet. They throw the leaves up in the air and watch with curiosity and wonder as they float to the ground. Staff encourage babies to investigate exciting objects in treasure baskets and to explore their room. Young children laugh and giggle as they hide in the tent and play peek-a-boo with staff and their friends. Older children handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are provided with a range of freshly prepared nutritious meals. Staff involve children in the preparation of snacks and serving of their own meal. They encourage children to develop good hygiene routines. Children are active outdoors each day in the exceptionally resourced and well-organised outdoor areas. They learn about the importance of exercise and how to keep themselves safe in a range of situations. Children are involved in community events and learn about a range of cultures and beliefs. Staff are exceptionally warm and caring with the children. Children show that they feel safe and secure. For example, they snuggle for cuddles when they wake from their lunch time nap. They sit closely together to share stories and sing songs.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children thrive and are eager to learn in this extremely high-quality nursery. Accurate and precise assessments and targeted support for each child means that any gaps in their learning are rapidly closing. Older children are superbly prepared for school as the staff proactively promote independence and group skills. For example, they learn to sit and listen attentively during group sessions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	220109
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10071095
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	Fowkes, Vicki
Registered person unique reference number	RP511562
Date of previous inspection	31 March 2015
Telephone number	01604 492357

Stonewell Cottage Day Nursery registered in 1993. It is open from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The nursery employs 11 members of staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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