

Inspection of Meadows Nursery

9/11 Mulberry Tree Hill, DROITWICH, Worcestershire WR9 7SS

Inspection date: 8 August 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are safe and happy at this cosy and inviting nursery. Staff create a homely environment for all children. They greet children and their families very warmly each morning. This sets the tone for the day very effectively. Children settle well and thoroughly enjoy their time with the staff and their peers. Children's behaviour is good. They happily include each other in their play and are very polite and welcoming to visitors. Staff act as good role models for children. They demonstrate how to make children new to the setting feel welcome and included. Children show the same care and kindness to others too. Children show through their behaviour and interactions just how 'at home' they feel.

Staff plan activities, experiences and resources that provide children with a suitable variety of learning opportunities. Children of different ages have lots of opportunities to develop their social skills, through their interactions with each other and staff. There is a very inclusive feel to the nursery, with older children being very kind and considerate towards babies and younger toddlers. The curriculum is planned to give children opportunities to progress across the different areas of learning.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Overall, staff support children's developing language well. Babies delight in listening to simple rhymes and songs. Staff are very effective at meeting the needs of children who speak English as an additional language. Staff ensure they understand the words that children may use to make their needs known. They consistently and clearly model words in English. This results in children who feel very included and are confident to ask for more and more language to add to their developing vocabulary.
- Children aged two years and over take part in daily group-time activities. There is some useful learning at these times. For older children, there is quite a narrow focus on letters and sounds and numbers at these times. This, and the amount of time given to this style of teaching, limits opportunities for some children to develop and practise the skills they most need to. For example, there are fewer opportunities at these times for very confident children to learn about turn taking in conversations or less confident children to contribute their ideas.
- Staff provide a stimulating and interesting learning environment, especially outdoors. Children really enjoy these opportunities to follow their own interests. For example, to make potions at the mud kitchen or pretend to be pirates looking for treasure. These opportunities help children develop into inquisitive and curious learners. Sometimes, staff are less confident to further extend children's learning at these times than during periods of more formal teaching.
- The key-person system is used very effectively to nurture close and trusting

bonds with children. This further enhances children's sense of security. Babies are cared for by the member of staff who knows them best. They snuggle in for cuddles and delight in her company. Older children show equally close bonds with their key staff.

- Staff make children feel welcome and unique. They value the different cultural backgrounds and experiences they bring with them. They celebrate days that are special to children. These also provide worthwhile opportunities for children to learn about cultures other than their own. For example, children learned about different clothes and food during 'Mexican Day'.
- Parents could not praise the kindness of the staff any higher. Several comment on how lucky they feel to have found this nursery. They value the flexibility it gives them in their working lives and the support they are given to continue their children's learning and development at home.
- The manager strives to develop and improve the nursery further. She supports staff to undertake training to enhance their teaching skills and the curriculum further. For example, training on the process children need to go through to be confident writers has led to a renewed emphasis on developing the muscles and control children need before they can hold and use a pencil effectively.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their role in keeping children safe. They know the signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know how to share any concerns, and the importance of doing so promptly, to keep children safe. Staff know how to escalate concerns beyond the nursery themselves if the need to do so should arise. Staff ensure the nursery premises are safe and secure. This ensures a suitable environment for the care of children. Staff keep accurate records to further enhance children's safety. This includes times when children may move from the nursery to another nearby provision for periods during the day.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop planning for group times, so staff focus teaching more precisely on what children will most benefit from learning next
- support staff to confidently make the most of children's freely chosen play to further extend children's knowledge and skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	205230
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	10116407
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 8
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Endless Vacation Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904229
Telephone number	01905 778897
Date of previous inspection	18 August 2015

Information about this early years setting

Meadows Nursery registered in 1997 and is situated in Droitwich, Worcestershire. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold recognised childcare qualifications between level 6 and level 2. The nursery is open from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide free early education to children aged two and three years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector and the manager completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation.
- Parents shared their views and the inspector took these into account.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager to find out about the leadership and management of the setting.

We carried out this inspection 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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