

Inspection of Chilton Meadows Nursery

Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 6LX

Inspection date: 19 October 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 thrive in this caring nursery where staff treat children as part of the family. Children demonstrate that they are happy as they sit on knees and look at books. Older children thoroughly enjoy collecting leaves into a Halloween potion outside. Staff are vigilant and respond quickly when they feel that children are showing signs of distress. For example, they are on hand to provide cuddles and reassurance when children are tired. Parents speak highly of the caring and nurturing staff. They value the support and advice which they receive from staff. Parents like the stay-and-play sessions that staff arrange or the activity packs that are sent home. This helps them to understand how they can support their children at home.

Children learn how they can keep themselves safe and healthy. For example, they wash their hands before eating and use a range of tools and materials safely as they play. Staff have high expectations for children's learning. Staff working with toddlers plan activities to help them to listen and concentrate. Children concentrate intently as they pass a bell around the circle without making a noise.

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

- Staff in the nursery generally help children to understand the importance of looking after their teeth. For example, all children receive toothbrushes and toothpaste. Older children learn how to brush their puppet's teeth. This helps them to understand how they can look after their own teeth. Staff talk to the parents about the importance of registering with a dentist and give out clear messages on healthy eating to parents, including healthy packed lunches.
- Staff manage children's behaviour effectively. They give children clear messages about how they expect them to behave. For example, staff working with younger children remind them that they must not climb in the sand tray outside. Staff working with older children talk to them and help them to understand other children's feelings and find solutions as they occur. Children respond quickly and follow the expectations.
- Staff have a strong focus on developing children's literacy skills. They use voices, actions and expressions to bring stories to life. For example, staff working with toddlers read stories with excellent expression. Children quickly settle and listen intently to the story. Babies thoroughly enjoy sitting on staff's knees to look at a book. Other children join in when this is accompanied by singing. This helps children to develop a love of books and rhymes.
- Staff are very caring and attentive. They respond quickly when toddlers are tired or upset. They are on hand to provide cuddles, reassurance and comforters, where necessary. Staff working with babies notice when they are tired and settle them to sleep, stroking their head to help them settle.

- Children in receipt of funding make good progress. The manager acts with integrity to ensure that funding is used effectively to help children catch up in their learning. For example, some children are offered additional sessions to support their development in preparation for school.
- Staff have a strong partnership with parents, overall. They talk to parents on drop off and collection and share information with parents about what children are doing in nursery. However, staff do not gather enough detailed information about children's ongoing interests and fascinations at home to incorporate this into their planning. As a result, some children occasionally lack high levels of engagement in activities.
- The manager provides advice and support to help staff to improve their practice further through focused training and staff meetings. However, she does not ensure that staff understand and consistently implement key messages from training.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well. Staff are well supported by an extremely knowledgeable special educational needs coordinator. She has a good working relationship with a range of professionals from health. The special educational needs coordinator goes above and beyond to keep in touch with them, so that children get the help they need. She works with staff to plan targets for children's learning. This helps children to make good progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children play in a safe and well-maintained environment. Staff have a strong understanding of safeguarding. They talk confidently about the signs and symptoms that may indicate that a child is subject to abuse. The manager ensures that staff attend a range of training to keep their knowledge up to date. Staff know who to contact if they had a concern about a child's welfare. They follow their local safeguarding partnership procedures swiftly when they have a concern.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- gather more detailed information from parents about children's interests and fascinations at home to help them become highly engaged in their learning
- ensure that staff understand and implement key messages from training and meetings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217668
Local authority	Sunderland
Inspection number	10229461
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 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Chilton Meadows Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP520255
Telephone number	0191 3854333
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

Chilton Meadows Nursery registered in 2002 and is located in Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one member of staff who is a qualified teacher. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Elizabeth Fish

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 their evaluation of the setting.
- The manager showed the inspector around the nursery and explained how she organises the curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to parents to find out their views on the nursery.
- The manager evaluated an activity with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children playing and learning.
- The manager talked to the inspector about how she manages the nursery and keeps children safe.
- The manager showed the inspector a range of documentation, including those relating to the suitability of staff.

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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