

Inspection of Meadows Mere Nursery School

1-2 Alfred Road, Kingsmere, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6TA

Inspection date: 9 May 2023

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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children display good manners and behaviour. They are happy, enjoy each other's company and play well together. Overall, they are learning to manage their own behaviour well and can successfully resolve some issues without adult support. Staff encourage children to talk about their emotions and help them to understand the impact of their behaviour on others. Furthermore, children enjoy doing things for themselves. For example, younger children wash their own plates and cups after snack and older children hang up their own coats. Staff support children's independence right from the outset, which helps to prepare them well for their next stage in learning.

Children successfully develop their communication and language skills. Staff use a range of ways, such as picture cards and visual timetables, to help children understand what is coming next. This supports children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) particularly well.

Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they learn how to clean their teeth when the dentist visits them at the nursery. Furthermore, they spend long periods of time learning outdoors, benefiting from fresh air and exercise.

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

- Staff complete training that has a positive impact on children's learning. For instance, following training on enabling environments, staff have reduced the number of resources available at one time. This has helped to support children to independently choose what they want to play with.
- Staff plan activities that encourage children to explore and investigate. For example, children enjoy using magnifying glasses to find bugs in the garden. However, during group activities, children sometimes wander off and staff do not try to re-engage them. This means children are not always fully developing their listening and attention skills.
- Staff use observation and assessment well to monitor children's learning and development. They successfully identify any emerging gaps and swiftly refer to outside agencies. This helps children, including those with SEND, to get the extra support they need to progress.
- Staff are good role models and give consistent messages to children about their behaviour. Children understand the rules and boundaries of the nursery which they have helped to develop. As a result, children behave well and show high levels of respect. For example, they readily share resources with their peers and patiently wait for their turn.

- Staff support children well through times of change, such as when starting at the nursery and moving on to school. Settling-in and transition plans are tailored to children's individual needs, which successfully supports their emotional well-being. However, some transition times, such as getting ready to go into the garden, take too long and children become bored and restless while waiting.
- There is an effective key-person system in place. Staff form strong bonds with children and their families, which helps children to feel safe and secure. They give children lots of praise and encouragement, which builds children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The dedicated and passionate manager has a good understanding of what she wants children to learn. The curriculum is sequenced well and builds on what children already know and can do. Children are developing good early mathematical skills. For example, they learn about space and measure, saying words such as 'big' and 'small' when they use tape to section off areas in the garden.
- The manager and leadership team support staff very well. Staff attend regular supervision meetings with the manager, where they discuss workload, well-being and training needs. Furthermore, staff complete peer reviews of practice to help each other develop their knowledge and skills.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff fully involve parents in their child's learning. This includes sharing ideas and resources, such as books, to enable parents to extend children's learning at home. Parents are extremely pleased with the progress their child has made at the nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and leadership team have robust recruitment processes in place to help ensure adults are suitable to work with children. Staff know the signs of potential abuse and neglect and the processes to follow if they have concerns about children's safety. Staff complete daily checks of the indoor and outdoor areas to identify and minimise any potential hazards for children. This helps to ensure the premises are safe and secure. Furthermore, staff plan visits from people in the community, such as the fire service, to help children understand how to keep themselves safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve group activities to ensure they meet the needs of all children and build on their listening and attention skills
- review strategies for transition times to ensure children do not wait for too long between activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507796
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10279971
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	2 to 5
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Places For Children Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP903812
Telephone number	01323 461114
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

Meadows Mere Nursery School is owned by Places For Children Limited. It registered in 1998 and is located in Eastbourne, East Sussex. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs five members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michaela Borland

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- A joint observation of staff practice was carried out by the inspector and the nursery manager.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children during activities and assessed the impact of teaching on children's learning.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.

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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