

Meadows Day Nursery

Nafferton Farm, Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7XD



Inspection date

29 May 2015

Previous inspection date

4 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The outdoor provision is exceptional. Children are given a wealth of opportunities to learn in the outdoor areas available to them. Their all-round development is exceptionally well provided for, as they access a 'windy wood' area and the 'foundation garden'.
- Staff are highly qualified and experienced early years practitioners. They use exceptional teaching methods to ensure children make rapid progress, in relation to their starting points.
- Children are provided with an excellent range of high-quality, innovative and interesting resources and activities throughout the nursery. This ensures that children's interests are maintained, and used to promote their further learning.
- Children's independence is exceptional. They learn self-help skills from an early age, therefore, they are ready for their eventual move on to school.
- Staff are closing the gaps in learning for children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those who speak English as an additional language. As a result, children are exceeding expectations for their age.
- Children behave exceptionally well and have impeccable manners. Babies begin to understand the concepts of sharing and taking turns, because staff use excellent methods to manage their behaviour.
- The nursery has highly effective arrangements in place to work in partnership with parents, multi-agency workers and other settings, in order to support children and their families.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the early years garden, to reflect the excellent outdoor facilities already in place at the nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed children playing in the playrooms and outside, in both the Foundation and the Early Years Units.
- The inspector held discussions with the principal, the manager, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and statements provided by parents through the nursery's own evaluation process.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, the planning documentation, and the systems for monitoring children's progress.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, and policies and procedures for the nursery.

Inspector

Carys Millican

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Teaching is of a consistently high quality, and staff demonstrate an excellent understanding of how young children learn. Staff use rigorous observation and assessment methods, which highlight children's rapid progress, and quickly identify areas where they are not developing. As a result, help is secured and gaps in their learning close quickly. Staff provide a highly innovative, interesting and exciting educational programme. For example, younger children enjoy sensory play, where they engage in activities playing with natural materials, such as compost. Older children are provided with superb activities to practise their early writing skills and mathematical learning. Staff use excellent methods to help children develop their communication and language skills. They effectively support children who speak English as an additional language, and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff share information in visual form, including the routine of the day, mixing paint, and getting ready for snacks and meals. Children's move on to school is a smooth process, because staff help them become familiar with the changes before they happen.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children settle exceptionally well into the nursery. They easily separate from their parents, knowing that their key person will be close by for comfort and reassurance. Staff use highly effective methods to obtain information about children before they start at the nursery. As a result, their welfare needs are exceptionally well met. Children are confident and their emotional well-being is effectively supported. They move around freely, independently helping themselves to resources. Children play in a safe and secure environment. Staff maintain thorough risk assessments covering all areas children access, including walks around the farm and activities in 'windy wood'. The 'foundation garden' is awe-inspiring. Children engage in physical activities, and use their senses to explore and learn about the world around them. Staff are continuing to develop the areas in the early years garden. Children demonstrate they feel physically safe in the nursery, through their excellent attitudes and dispositions. They are supported from an early age to help themselves, and gradually develop the skills they require in readiness for school. As a result, their independence is phenomenal.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The leadership and management are inspirational. The management and staff team have an excellent understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They use staff meetings to discuss safeguarding issues. The excellent internal procedures and policies reflect the whole ethos of the nursery, and all record keeping is meticulously maintained. The management evaluates the views of all users, in order to create a highly comprehensive action programme, to maintain and further develop the truly outstanding provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	301761
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	855003
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	107
Name of provider	Dr William Taylor & Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Taylor Partnership
Date of previous inspection	4 August 2009
Telephone number	01661 836266

Meadows Day Nursery was registered in 1990. The nursery operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays. The provision provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language. In total, 23 staff work in the nursery, of whom 22 hold relevant qualifications, including one who holds the Early Years Practitioner status, and two who hold Qualified Teacher Status. In 2015, the nursery was awarded 'Number One Recommended Nursery in the North East and United Kingdom' by Day Nurseries UK.

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