

The Old Forge Day Nursery

Old Forge, The Green, Findern, DERBY DE65 6AA



Inspection date	15 February 2019
Previous inspection date	15 September 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

This provision is outstanding

- The inspirational leadership of the manager drives the excellent standards of this nursery. The manager has an exceptional approach to leading her team. She is passionate about her work, experienced and extremely knowledgeable. The manager uses a robust self-evaluation system regularly, to help her make improvements.
- Staff are very enthusiastic, immensely caring and establish highly positive, warm relationships with children. The key-person system is exceptional and staff support children's emotional well-being in excellent ways.
- Children behave exceptionally well. Staff are excellent role models, who have extremely high expectations of all children and celebrate their uniqueness. Staff manage children's behaviour very successfully. They help children to understand, value and respect their friends.
- Staff use observations and assessments to help them skilfully shape learning experiences for children. They have a secure knowledge of children's next steps in learning which they precisely identify through their high-quality assessment processes. Children make rapid progress relative to their starting points.
- Inspiring members of staff teach communication and language skills extremely well. They talk to babies and hold purposeful conversations with older children. Staff introduce new words such as 'sparkle' and 'shine', to help describe the glitter children play with and increase children's vocabulary.
- Staff nurture children's natural curiosity. They provide an excellent challenging and stimulating environment and are skilful at supporting and encouraging children to plan and guide their own play and learning.
- Exceptionally strong partnerships have been established with parents. This helps to ensure children's interests, abilities and needs are understood and expertly met. Parents highlight how well their children settle and develop. They feel fully informed about their children's routines, activities and progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement the plans to enhance the already excellent outdoor provision, to reflect an even wider range of activities and further support those children who learn best outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She spoke to the directors of the nursery and held discussions with the manager.
- 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 evaluation of an activity with the manager. She discussed children's learning and development. She looked at children's learning records and discussed the progress they make.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection. In addition, she looked at questionnaires completed by parents and emails containing positive comments about the nursery.
- The inspector sampled a wide range of documentation, including attendance records, evidence of staff suitability checks and qualifications. She also looked documentation linked to managing staff's performance and the nursery action plan for improvement.

Inspector

Jan Hughes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff are trained to an incredibly high standard and are extremely knowledgeable with regard to their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. Staff recruitment is extremely rigorous and ensures staff are suitable to work with children. The manager is highly supportive of staff's professional development and personal well-being. Training and professional development for all staff is a key strength in the nursery and this has an extremely positive impact on the care and learning of the children. For example, staff working in the baby room have recently attended training on how babies learn. This has changed the dynamics of the baby room. Highly effective partnerships with other professionals enable staff to meet children's individual needs very successfully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is highly effective and consistent. Staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable of child development. They use their training and qualifications extremely well to support children's learning. Staff plan exceedingly well to provide individualised and challenging activities for each child. They meticulously listen to children and adapt activities to follow each child's interests and extend their learning. They successfully encourage children to solve problems. For instance, older children use recycled materials to create items, for example an elephant. They decide what to use for the trunk and how this can be attached to the head, solving the problems as they occur. Staff captivate children with stories, and children join in with actions and sing familiar songs. They teach children a very wide range of mathematical concepts, such as counting, size and position, while they play. Toddlers thrive in the highly stimulating, safe and enjoyable environment.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's welfare is at the heart of nursery life. Children flourish within the nursery. They show they are extremely happy and secure. Staff are tremendously nurturing, perceptive and support the children's well-being at all times. The learning environment is excellent. Staff support children's physical development in exceptional ways, including by providing challenging activities for children to practise climbing, jumping, balancing, exploring and investigating. However, the manager recognises that she could provide even more learning opportunities for children who learn best outdoors. Children demonstrate a wonderful sense of belonging in the nursery. They operate with high levels of independence and confidence. Staff consistently praise the children and value their efforts and contributions to ideas. Children develop an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles and how to keep themselves safe.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children are highly confident learners and develop skills for their future learning and move to school. They are achieving above their typical age expectations. They have an extremely positive attitude to learning and are willing to try new things. Older children develop excellent early literacy skills. They learn quickly how to write their names and are learning about the letter sounds of the alphabet. Younger children develop excellent small-muscle skills and use tools extremely well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY427124
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	10071590
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	0 - 11
Total number of places	76
Number of children on roll	144
Name of registered person	The Old Forge Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527307
Date of previous inspection	15 September 2015
Telephone number	01283701533

The Old Forge Day Nursery re-registered in 2011. The nursery employs 29 members of childcare staff. Of these, three are qualified teachers and two senior staff have childcare qualifications at levels 4 and 6. There are 17 other staff members who also have childcare qualifications at level 2 and 3 and there are seven unqualified staff. The nursery opens all year round from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and a week between Christmas and New Year. The nursery provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

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