

Al-Ashraf Nursery

Al-Ashraf Cultural Centre, Stratton Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 4HB



Inspection date

29 January 2015

Previous inspection date

30 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 nursery provides a very safe, secure and nurturing environment where children settle quickly, are happy, extremely confident and have very high levels of self-esteem.
- The governors and manager are inspirational in providing support, guidance and challenge to the team of staff who share an ambition to provide the best possible care and learning experiences for children.
- The committed and enthusiastic staff team regularly reflect on their practice, evaluate what they do well and identify ways to drive improvement that focus on children's well-being and achievements.
- The nursery develops excellent partnerships with other professionals and providers which effectively promotes continuity in children's care, extends their learning experiences and ensures extra support is available for those who need it.
- Staff know the children extremely well. They assess children's progress regularly and accurately and use detailed tracking processes to ensure they promptly and effectively respond to any developmental delay, gaps in the curriculum or children who need additional challenges.
- The carefully planned, well-resourced environment, activities and skilled interaction of staff support children well in making rapid progress in their learning and development. Children are fully prepared for their next stage of learning and transition to school.
- There is a very strong focus on developing children's communication and language skills, with particularly good support for children who are learning English as an additional language.
- Excellent communication between the nursery and parents has a very positive impact on children's learning and development.
- Regular and thorough monitoring of practice and supervision of staff is used effectively to identify training needs, drive improvement and keep staff motivated to continue their own professional development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue developing plans for the outdoor area to further extend children's learning experiences outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the both play rooms and the outside learning environment.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision in the Rising 3's room.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager of the provision and the Governors and spoke with the children.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and from information included in the settings own parent survey.

Inspector

Heather Morgan

Inspection findings

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

The highly qualified and experienced staff team have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. Children are very well engaged in their play throughout the session. Staff interact skilfully with children to extend their learning, build on what they already know and prepare them well for their transition to school. There is a really strong focus on supporting children's communication and language skills. This is particularly effective in ensuring that children who are learning English as an additional language do not fall behind their peers. Staff enthusiastically access additional training to support them in promoting specific areas of the curriculum. Their attendance at 'Every Child a Talker' training resulted in the implementation of new and highly effective techniques to further promote speech and language. All children make rapid progress in their learning and development.

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

Children are extremely confident and have high levels of self-esteem. Staff establish close communication with parents to help children settle quickly. This includes supportive home visits to meet the children before they start and find out how best to meet their individual needs. Children who take longer to settle are supported very sensitively by familiar members of staff with whom they feel comfortable and reassured. Staff support children in developing a secure understanding of Islamic principles, through daily routines and play. Children are encouraged to be aware of others and to respect difference and diversity. They enjoy learning about cultures and traditions that differ from their own. Staff are very good role models and have high expectations of the children. They use praise and encouragement very effectively and encourage children to think about how others feel. Children's behaviour is exceptionally good and they demonstrate high levels of concentration and perseverance. They develop close relationships with other children and strong attachments with the staff who care for them. The manager and staff have a very clear understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe and secure.

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

Highly effective leadership and management of the nursery ensures that all staff work together to achieve consistent, exceptional standards. A varied and challenging training programme is successfully targeted to support staff in fulfilling their responsibilities to a high level. Self-evaluation is an integral part of the nursery's success. Views are sought from children, staff, parents and carers and other professionals to enable the management team to drive improvement. For example, they have identified ways to further develop children's outdoor learning experiences by accessing local facilities such as a farm and forest area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY412740
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	1004064
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Al-Madani Educational Trust Gloucester
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2010
Telephone number	01452 503 533

Al-Ashraf Nursery is run by the trustees of Al-Madani Educational Trust. It opened in 1999, registered with Ofsted in 2001 and moved into its current premises in 2006. It is situated in the Al-Ashraf Cultural Centre near the centre of the city of Gloucester. It operates from two playrooms on the ground floor of the refurbished building. Children share access to a secure, enclosed, outdoor play area with the primary school located on the same site.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and is open each weekday during school terms and for part of Ramadan. Sessions run from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Children aged three and four years attend in the morning and 'Rising 3's' in the afternoon. A mother and toddler group also meets from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The nursery employs nine members of staff and a teacher of Arabic, who work with the children. All of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at Level 3 or above. All staff speak at least two languages. The nursery is based on Islamic principles.

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