

# Nursery classed as 'exceptional'

A COCKERMOUTH children's nursery has been graded as "outstanding" in all areas following a recent Ofsted inspection.

Inspectors visited the Strawberry How Nursery on June 5 and said that they were impressed with the care and teaching provided.

The report said that children at the nursery were exceptionally well cared for and made excellent progress because of the *knowledge and understanding* of staff.

The quality of teaching and learning was described as exceptional, and the leadership was described as inspirational.

Inspectors praised the outdoor provision at the nursery, where children can care for fruit trees, bushes, plants and vegetables which they use for

snacks during the year.

A previous Ofsted inspection in 2010 rated the nursery as "good" just six months after current owners Julie and Bill Richardson took over.

Mrs Richardson said: "Over the last four years we have changed everything including building an outside play area and given the children more freedom to move around the rooms.

"The staff have done really well to adapt to the changes. They have had to change their approach and the way they talk to the children and they have been supportive and understanding of all our hard work."

The nursery has 115 children on its roll, aged from six months to five years, and it employs 17 staff.