

Noah's Ark Childcare

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date

16/03/2010

Inspector

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Type of setting

Childcare on non-domestic premises

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

Noah's Ark Childcare is a privately owned nursery and out of school provision. It was registered in 2009 and operates from a converted school building in the centre of Normanton. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area. The provision is open each weekday from 6am to 7pm all year round with the exception of Bank Holidays.

Noah's Ark Childcare is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register to care for a maximum of 104 children. There are currently 66 children on roll, of which 44 are in the early years age range.

There are currently 15 staff employed in the setting including the manager. All staff hold a recognised childcare qualification.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

The nursery is not meeting some of the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and consequently children's individual welfare and development needs are not effectively met. The management of the setting is currently weak and some staff have not completed a suitable induction process. Staff have friendly relationships with the parents and talk to them each day to help them support children's individual needs. Children enjoy playing in a warm, bright and welcoming setting which is well resourced and provides them with opportunities across all areas of learning. There is a good balance of freely chosen and adult-initiated activities available. The manager has obtained a copy of the Ofsted self-evaluation form to use as the basis for identifying the strengths and areas of improvement for the setting. However, this process is not sufficiently developed to fully ensure the Early Years Foundation Stage is effectively implemented.

Overall, the early years provision requires significant improvement. The registered person is given a Notice to Improve that sets out actions to be carried out.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- obtain enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures for every person who works directly with children or on the childcare premises (Suitability of adults)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 14/04/2010
- ensure people whose suitability has not been checked do not have unsupervised contact with the children 17/03/2010

- being cared for (Suitability of adults)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register)
- ensure there is a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager (Staffing arrangements) 31/03/2010
- conduct a more detailed risk assessment identifying aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, maintain a record of these particular aspects including when they have been checked and by whom and review at least once a year or more frequently where the need arises (Suitable premises, environment and equipment) (also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register) 31/03/2010
- ensure that at least one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present. There must also be at least one person on outings who has a current paediatric first aid certificate (Promoting good health)(also applies to both parts of the Childcare Register). 07/04/2010

To improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure staff are provided with induction training in the first days of their employment to ensure they are familiar with routines, policies and procedures
- develop a system to monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision to lead to the identification of targets for further improvement.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership and management of the setting are ineffective and therefore children's welfare is not safeguarded and a number of regulations have been breached. Not all staff currently have a Criminal Records Bureau check to ensure they are safe to work with the children and on occasion unvetted staff are left to work unsupervised. This is a breach of regulations. Children's welfare is put at further risk as there are insufficient numbers of staff who hold an up-to-date first aid qualification. Also the current system of recording risk assessments does not contain required information to confirm the setting is completely safe for children. These are also breaches of regulation. The nursery is secure and visitors are required to sign in and out of the premises. There is a suitable safeguarding policy and a range of supporting documentation, including contact numbers for external agencies should a child protection concern arise. Staff have a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse to enable them to support children and their families.

The manager and staff have not yet started to effectively self-evaluate. This has had an impact on the nursery and its capacity to improve. Requirements of the

Early Years Foundation Stage and areas for development have not been identified, which therefore impacts on the quality of the provision and some of the outcomes for children. The manager has not officially appointed a member of staff into the role of deputy manager and this is a breach of regulations. However, a member of staff for this role has been identified and she will be able to take charge in the absence of the manager. Partnerships with parents are developing and they are supportive and friendly. Parents comment on how their children enjoy the time they spend at the setting. Partnerships with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage are developing as the children are taken to the local schools; the nursery forms part of the wrap-around service of care for children within the community.

Equality and diversity are promoted in the setting. There are some resources freely available to the children, such as books which show images of culture, and posters which are displayed in the setting and there is a positive attitude from the staff team. An equality of opportunity policy is in place and is available to parents. Staff recognise the differing abilities of the children and accommodate these to ensure children of all ages and stages of development are able to participate in the full range of activities on offer.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are relaxed and comfortable in the care of the staff, who have warm relationships with them. Staff are attentive to children's welfare and care needs. As a result, the children are generally happy in the setting. The setting has very large spacious rooms for different ages of children. These are filled with a good range of resources which cover all areas of learning and are set out to enable children to easily and independently access them. There is a suitable balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities and all children, from the younger babies to the pre-school children, enjoy being creative, listening to stories and looking at books and spending time developing their physical skills in their own outdoor play areas.

There are developing individual profiles for children. Staff have started to carry out simple observations on their key children and are linking these, in most cases, to the areas of learning. Children's profiling is in the early stages as the setting has only been operating for a few months. Staff have a suitable understanding of how to observe and assess the children in order to plan for their next steps in learning.

Children have fun playing in the outdoor area. They are able to access a sound range of resources; they develop their climbing and balancing skills as they use the climbing frames and walk along the beams. Younger children enjoy kicking and throwing the balls or riding in the wheeled vehicles. For the more able children a roadway is painted onto the floor and they begin to use this to learn about road safety as staff remind them to use the zebra crossing. Children of all ages have been involved in planting vegetable and plant-seeds and they are learning how to care for them; the more able children use small watering cans to carefully give them water. In each play-room children access toys and activities which sustain their interest. The babies enjoy the treasure baskets which allow them to feel

textures and natural materials such as wood and sponge. They have lots of free space to move around and toys are provided for them on the floor and on very low tables. All children take part in creative activities; the babies enjoy hand painting supported by the staff, while the more able children can help themselves to a good range of craft resources which enables them to paint, cut and stick, and use malleable materials to create their own art work.

Children are developing their understanding of healthy eating and personal hygiene. They are aware of the routine to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before snack, and use liquid soap and paper towels to prevent cross infection. Children are also learning about good dental hygiene as they are encouraged to brush their teeth after eating. Children are provided with healthy snack options which include fresh fruit and vegetables. They can also access drinks of water throughout the day. Safety is promoted with the children as they are reminded to use resources appropriately. Children receive lots of positive praise from the staff for their achievements and this raises their self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong
Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound
Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

| | |
|--|---|
| How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage? | 4 |
| The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement | 4 |

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

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|--|---|
| How effectively is the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed? | 4 |
| The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement | 4 |
| The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources | 4 |
| The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity | 3 |
| The effectiveness of safeguarding | 4 |
| The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement | 4 |
| The effectiveness of partnerships | 3 |
| The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers | 3 |

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

| | |
|--|---|
| The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage | 4 |
|--|---|

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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|--|---|
| Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage | 4 |
| The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning | 3 |
| The extent to which children feel safe | 4 |
| The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles | 3 |
| The extent to which children make a positive contribution | 3 |
| The extent to which children develop skills for the future | 4 |

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 14/04/2010
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 31/03/2010
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report(Welfare of the children being cared for)(also applies to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 07/04/2010

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children) 14/04/2010
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment) 31/03/2010
- take action as specified in the Early Years section of the report(Welfare of the children being cared for). 07/04/2010