

Little Angels Playgroup

Community Centre, 1-2 Barnes Close, KETTERING, Northamptonshire, NN15 6JB

Inspection date	11/11/2013
Previous inspection date	12/11/2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	
	Previous inspection:	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		3

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision requires improvement

- Children are provided with a variety of suitable adult-led activities and opportunities to initiate their own play both indoors and outside, enabling them to learn the basic skills required to support their future learning.
- Children are cared for in a safe environment. The manager and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and thoroughly risk assess areas and equipment that children have access to. They then take appropriate action to minimise any potential risks or hazards.
- Documentation and records are maintained as required. Suitability checks are taken out on anyone working with the children to maintain their safety and security.

It is not yet good because

- The lay-out of the indoor activities does not provide sufficient space for children to spread out and extend their play. This results in children often getting in each other's way and some children become frustrated.
- Staff have not yet adopted effective ways to manage the frustration that some children feel when their play is interrupted.
- The evaluation of the provision does not take account of the impact improvements have on outcomes for children.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are:

- scheduled at least once in every inspection cycle – the current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- scheduled more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- scheduled at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playroom and the outside learning area.
- The inspector made observations of the children at play and discussed these with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager about the organisation of the provision.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of adults working with children, the provider's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from information included in the playgroup's own parent questionnaire.

Inspector

Anne Archer

Full report

Information about the setting

Little Angels Playgroup was registered in 2006 and has been in its current premises since 2011. It is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It operates from the Highfield Barnes Community Centre in Barnes Close, Kettering, Northamptonshire. The playgroup has use of an open plan playroom, a kitchen, three toilets and an enclosed outdoor area. It serves the local area and is accessible to all children.

The playgroup employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, the manager holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4 and the deputy holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The apprentice holds an early years qualification at level 2 and has almost completed a qualification at level 3.

The playgroup is open Monday to Thursday from 8.45am to 11.45am and on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12.30pm to 3.30pm during school term times. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 25 children attending, who are in the early years age group.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- organise the playroom, so that children are able to extend their play without becoming frustrated due to the lack of space
- make sure that staff understand how to manage situations of poor behaviour when they arise, so that other children's play and learning is not adversely affected.

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

- include in the evaluation of the provision, the impact that improvements have on children's progress and learning.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The playgroup staff teach young children the basic skills they will need to support their future learning reasonably well. Staff observe children as they play, so that they know

what they enjoy doing and how well they are progressing. They use these notes to plan activities, which will support children's progress in all areas of learning. Staff do this well. All the activities provided for the children are well used and they enjoy them. However, the lay-out of the indoor activities does not provide sufficient space for children to spread out and extend their play in the way they would like. For example, the first time that play potatoes are available to the children, play becomes disorderly because there is nowhere for children to wait their turn to use the microwave, so they can make jacket potatoes. This results in children getting in each other's way. Some children become frustrated and spoil the play experience for all the children. Staff try various ways to distract or move along the children but nothing effectively solves the issue that there is insufficient space for children to play due to there being too many toys in a small area.

The situation is further exacerbated on poor weather days. In fine weather, children enjoy use of the outdoor play area for a wide range of activities throughout the session. However, there is no undercover area, so the activities and the time available outside are limited, especially in wet weather. Staff try hard to provide a varied range of activities outside in these conditions and do successfully engage the children. For example, children pour blue paint onto a wet surface and talk about what is happening as the paint spreads and swirls. Other children practise getting the football between the goalposts. There are fewer squabbles and upsets when the children have space to choose where they play.

Staff engage well with parents. They share information verbally on a daily basis, so that staff know what the children have been doing elsewhere and parents get ideas about how to support their children at home.

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

Although, staff have not yet devised effective ways to manage the frustration that some children feel when their play is interrupted, the relationships between adults and children are close. Children show by their actions that they feel secure and safe in the playgroup environment. Children seek staff out to help them when the tower they are building starts to wobble or they need extra paper for their painting activity. Some children seek out cuddles or climb on an adult knee during story time or key group time. Children are learning to become independent at snack time as they select a plate and a beaker. Most manage to pour their own drinks and select their grapes and breadstick from the serving dishes. Children are at various levels of independence in the bathroom. Where they need help to use the potty or the toilet, staff are there to support them and when they are able to care for themselves, staff call to ask if they are alright, so that they know that help is at hand should they need it.

Staff have paediatric first aid training and are able to deal effectively with minor injuries and illnesses. Most parents live close by, so are able to quickly collect their children if they become unwell. Childhood illness exemption periods are adhered to by staff to try to avoid the spread of infections. Staff carry out daily risk assessments on any area or equipment that children may come into contact with and take appropriate action to minimise potential hazards or risks. For example, although, the outdoor area is checked each morning, staff review the area again before children go out to play.

Children are provided with drinking water throughout the session and healthy snacks and a drink of milk during each session. They eagerly wait their turn and talk about what the snack will be. For example, when finding out that they will have grapes, they ask 'are they black or green?' Children eat well and take part in discussions with their friends and the staff around the table. Outdoor play is particularly important as many of the children attending the playgroup do not have a garden at home. Staff provide a good range of activities to support their physical development and seek consent to take them to a nearby park on occasions, so they can enjoy the freedom of a wide open space.

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

Children are cared for in a safe environment. The manager and her staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and documentation includes procedures about the use of mobile telephones and cameras, allegations against staff and lost/missing/uncollected children. The manager is very aware of the importance of safe recruitment and all staff have suitability checks taken out on them. There are weekly staff meetings where planning and the needs of individual children are discussed and appraisal sessions, which include a discussion about training needs. Documentation and records are maintained as required, although, the self-evaluation does not clearly show the impact changes have on the children's learning.

Following the last inspection report, the manager has received support from the local authority to improve the quality of teaching within the group. She and her staff have a satisfactory understanding of the learning and development requirements and understand what they have to improve. The support they have received has been effective up to a point with all staff demonstrating some good teaching with individuals and with small groups of children. Staff know the children well and this helps them to pinpoint what it is a particular child's needs to help them. The manager and staff are due to visit another setting shortly to see how they manage challenging behaviour and are hopeful that they can improve their own setting afterwards. This demonstrates that they welcome and embrace support and use the partnerships they have established to their advantage.

Other professionals working with individual children, who attend the setting are welcomed into the playgroup to observe and work with the children. Staff use these visits to develop their own understanding of particular children's needs, so they can support them better. Parents' comment that they appreciate the help and support the staff at the playgroup give them. They see the benefit that coming to the playgroup has on their children and are grateful for it.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	The provision is not giving children a good standard of early years education and/or there are minor breaches of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be monitored and inspected within twelve months of the date of this inspection.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement action. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be monitored and inspected again within six months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY430441
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	894279
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	Joanna Aldridge
Date of previous inspection	12/11/2012
Telephone number	07742437719

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Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools

and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises, which are usually the childminder's own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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