

Inspection date

22 January 2015

Previous inspection date

3 October 2011

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Inadequate | 4 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Good | 2 |
| How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend | | Good | 2 |
| The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children | | Inadequate | 4 |
| The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision | | Inadequate | 4 |
| The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings | | | |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Staff do not promote children's welfare, due to a poor understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures. Steps to minimise risks, such as, making the wooden doors to the outdoor area safe, are ineffective, which means that children's safety is compromised.
- Risk assessments are ineffective and inconsistent. As a result, children are not safeguarded.
- Self-evaluation and action planning are weak. Not enough has been done to ensure the safeguarding and welfare requirements are met.
- Staff do not always provide parents with specific information about how they can support their children's learning at home, to further enhance the good progress they make at the playgroup.
- Staff do not keep all of their records on site, which means that they are not accessible to Ofsted or parents.

It has the following strengths

- Staff have a good knowledge of children's needs. They ensure activities are linked to their interests so children are motivated and keen to learn.
- Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning because staff encourage them to be independent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure all risk assessments and daily safety checks are accurate and up-to-date so staff can demonstrate clearly how they manage risks
- take all reasonable steps to remove, minimise and manage risks and hazards to protect children's safety and welfare, particularly the risks associated with the damage to the wooden doors leading to the outdoor area and ensure these steps are incorporated into the self-evaluation process so action planning is more effective
- ensure records are easily accessible and available for Ofsted.

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

- provide parents with more information and ideas about how to support children's learning at home, to further enhance children's progress.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure risk assessments and daily safety checks are completed and that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure risk assessments and daily safety checks are completed and that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector conducted a tour of the premises with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager. Discussions were held with children and the other member of staff.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff interaction in the playrooms and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, a selection of children's records, safeguarding policies, and discussed self-evaluation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of two parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Emily Wheeldon

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good knowledge of children's needs and make effective links between children's interests and planning. Children delight in finding ladybirds and successfully categorise insects according to different features. Children with English as an additional language develop good language skills because staff support their understanding. For example, they provide photographs of activities in sequence order so children know what will be happening next. Staff set challenging tasks for children, such as threading cotton reels on string. Consequently, children learn to develop good hand-and-eye coordination. This means children are well prepared for school and make good progress from their starting points. However, systems to share ideas with parents about how to support their child's learning at home are not fully in place.

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

A key-person system is embedded and children settle well. However, children have a false sense of security, because staff are not meeting the safeguarding requirements due to the premises not being safe. Staff work with parents at the beginning of care, to find out about their child's interests and needs. Good-quality resources are accessible to children so they can self-select and make choices. Staff encourage children to manage their personal hygiene and to dress themselves. Hygiene procedures are good and children know they must wash their hands before snack time. Children behave well and know they must share. This is because staff give them reminders about expectations for their behaviour. Children are provided with healthy snacks and are offered a wide range of opportunities to develop their physical skills. As a result, they develop healthy lifestyles.

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

Arrangements for safeguarding children are inadequate and a number of welfare requirements are not met. Staff carry out risk assessments and identify potential hazards. However, swift action is not taken to make areas safe. This applies to the wooden doors leading to the outside area, which are badly damaged and compromise children's safety. Children can access the doors easily and staff do not take preventative steps, such as creating a physical boundary, to keep children safe. In addition, risk assessments and visual safety checks undertaken by staff are inconsistent. This is because staff use a generic safety tick list and say the area is safe when a different risk assessment sheet says that some aspects are not safe. As a result, the premises are not secure and therefore, children are not protected from harm. The manager monitors educational programmes well and assessment is robust. Any gaps in learning are identified through tracking systems and appropriate support put in place. However, some records were not available during the inspection and this is a further breach of requirements. The playgroup employs two members of staff and they monitor one another's practice on a daily basis. They take opportunities to go on training to update their skills. Self-evaluation takes into account the views of parents, and staff reflect on their practice. However, self-evaluation is weak,

because the provider does not ensure safeguarding and welfare requirements are met. Parents are kept informed about their child's progress through daily discussions and summary reports. The playgroup has established links with the school so that information is shared about children's learning.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | 500186 |
| Local authority | Manchester |
| Inspection number | 855471 |
| Type of provision | |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 0 - 17 |
| Total number of places | 16 |
| Number of children on roll | 28 |
| Name of provider | Jane Richardson |
| Date of previous inspection | 3 October 2011 |
| Telephone number | 0161 681 1385 |

St Wilfrid's Playgroup was registered in 2003. It is situated in a converted bungalow in the grounds of St Wilfrid's Primary School, in the Newton Heath area of Manchester. The playgroup is managed and run by the manager. It operates from two play areas in the bungalow and there is an enclosed area available for outdoor play. The playgroup employs two members of childcare staff; this includes the manager. Both of the members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 9am until 12pm and 1pm until 3.30pm. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The playgroup receives support from the headteacher and the nursery teacher at St Wilfrid's School.

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