

Mini Marvels Club Ltd

Corrie CP School, Cemetery Road, Denton, Manchester, Lancashire, M34 6FG



Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

16 May 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not always ensure staff recruitment records are up to date or kept on the premises at all times. In addition, some information relating to enhanced criminal record checks on staff is incomplete.
- Staff do not always use resources and spaces effectively in the outdoor area or plan interesting or challenging activities for children. As a result, children are not provided with a very stimulating learning environment and do not make good progress.
- Staff training opportunities and systems to observe staff practice and to support them to improve their quality of teaching are not fully established.
- Staff do not always gather views from parents, staff and children or make changes swiftly enough to improve the quality of provision.

It has the following strengths

- Children settle quickly and form secure attachments with their key persons.
- Children are polite and show care and concern for others because staff are positive role models. Children know what the boundaries are and feel proud when they are praised by staff for trying things by themselves.
- Staff are caring and are committed to ensuring children are happy and secure. Parents comment positively about the care provided and say their children often talk about what they have been learning.
- Staff have an appropriate knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures. They know the signs and symptoms of abuse and who to contact should they have concerns.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure the required information relating to criminal record checks for all staff is in place and includes the criminal records disclosure reference number, the date a disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it
- improve the quality of teaching by ensuring that staff plan challenging and exciting activities in all areas of learning and use resources and spaces in a more creative way, especially in the outdoor area, so that they make the most of opportunities to stretch children's minds and push them forward in their learning
- improve arrangements to observe staff practice and provide constructive feedback so that staff know what they need to do to improve the quality of their teaching, and support their passion to develop as practitioners by providing further training
- ensure staff recruitment records, such as qualification certificates and references, are kept on site and made easily accessible to Ofsted.

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

- improve upon self-evaluation to clearly identify and prioritise targets for improvement that incorporate the views of parents, staff and children, and take action more quickly in order to continually improve the quality of provision for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the deputy manager.
- The inspector observed activities in the inside play areas, the dining area and the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager and deputy manager of the provision.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and through written feedback in children's records.

Inspector

Emily Wheeldon

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff generally provide a suitable range of activities to promote children's development across the seven areas of learning. Pre-school children enjoy making sandcastles and talk about shells they have found in the sand. They make links to personal experiences of the seaside. Toddlers practise making marks with crayons, which helps them to develop writing skills ready for the next stage in their learning. Staff monitor and assess children's progress, but do not consistently use the information obtained to ensure activities provide good levels of challenge. Staff plan activities to help children recognise numbers in the environment. They ask children to park their bikes in numbered bays, but do not extend their learning further by asking them to recognise different numbers. As a result, some children do not make good progress. This is because they are not learning anything new and staff do not always build on what they already know.

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

An appropriate key-person system helps children develop confidence and ensures that they feel emotionally secure and happy. Staff ensure children have their care needs met and generally make sure they manage their own dressing skills, such as putting on coats. Healthy and safe practices are taught through routines, such as talking about healthy food choices at lunchtimes. A range of resources and spaces generally meet children's needs. However, the learning environment, especially in the outdoor area, is not very stimulating or exciting. As a result, children do not want to play in some areas and instead engage in activities which are mundane. Staff praise children and build their self-esteem so children behave well. Toddlers enjoy riding on bikes and learn to use pedals, and pre-school children learn to walk across crates so they develop appropriate physical skills.

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

The manager has a general understanding of her responsibilities and a range of procedures and policies support children's health, safety and well-being. However, checks on staff practice are not rigorous enough to ensure teaching is consistently good or better. On occasions, staff access training but this is inconsistent, so staff are not fully supported in their professional development. Systems for reviewing and keeping paperwork up to date are not particularly robust. Some documents, such as qualification certificates, are not always kept on the premises. Vetting procedures ensure only suitable people can work with children, and the manager records the date when these checks are carried out. However, sometimes information is not recorded for all staff files, such as the date of issue and reference numbers for Disclosure and Barring Service checks. Systems for evaluating what is working and what needs improvement are developing. However, staff do not seek the views of parents and children in their drive for improvement. Staff have strengthened links with other early years settings that children attend. Parents are informed of their children's learning via daily discussions and progress summaries.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY263194
Local authority	Tameside
Inspection number	1003577
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Mini Marvels Club Ltd
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2012
Telephone number	07810 355 985

Mini Marvels Club Ltd was registered in 2003 and operates from a single-storey building in the grounds of Corrie Primary School. The setting employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds level 4. The setting opens from Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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