

# The Secret Garden Children's Day Nursery

Annandale House, 105 Eastgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1PY



## Inspection date

Previous inspection date

17 February 2015

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

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

- Despite having a thorough knowledge of child protection issues and procedures, the manager and staff have not always referred concerns about a child's welfare to the appropriate authorities immediately, which compromised children's well-being. As a result, all staff have been reminded of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The quality of teaching varies. Babies have few opportunities to make choices in their play.
- Staff do not always follow hygienic cleaning routines and compromise children's good health and well-being.
- Staff do not always use questions effectively to continually extend children's language, communication and learning skills.

### It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy daily outdoor play in a well-resourced and interesting environment that promotes their physical development.
- The staff team provide clear and consistent boundaries to children. As a result, children behave well, which shows that they feel safe and secure at the nursery.
- Partnerships with parents and other providers are secure. Parents are positive about the nursery and say they are very pleased with their children's care and progress.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- follow the established procedures to safeguard children without delay, by referring concerns about children's welfare to the relevant authorities at the earliest opportunity
- raise the quality of teaching to a consistently good standard by improving the balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities, particularly in the baby room to help children make choices in their play
- improve the arrangements to promote children's good health by making sure that staff follow effective hygiene and cleaning routines.

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

- build-on children's language, communication and learning by ensuring staff follow questions through with children, giving children enough time to answer for themselves and extend on what they say.

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

- ensure that the lead practitioner liaises with any local Safeguarding Children Board and Director of Children's Services at the earliest opportunity in the event of any safeguarding concerns (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).
- ensure that the lead practitioner liaises with any local Safeguarding Children Board and Director of Children's Services at the earliest opportunity in the event of any safeguarding concerns (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspection took place following concerns about safeguarding practice.
- The inspector observed activities throughout the nursery and outside play areas, and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and sampled a range of documentation.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

## **Inspector**

Julie Swann

## Inspection findings

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

The staff team has a suitable understanding of the learning and development requirements. They observe, assess and plan for children's learning. However, the quality of teaching varies. In the baby room, there is a greater emphasis on adult-led play. Consequently, there are limited opportunities for younger children to make choices about their learning experiences. Older children have many opportunities to develop their understanding of mathematical language and ideas. For example, during creative play, staff encouraged children to count and talk about shapes as they made spiders. Children have access to a wide range of books and listen to staff as they tell stories. However, questions asked by staff do not always build on what children have already said. Therefore, opportunities to promote children's communication and learning are not always effectively maximised.

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

There is a secure key-person system to ensure all children have a special person to turn to if they are upset or in need of a cuddle. Staff are extremely keen to allow children the opportunity to take calculated risks through active play. For example, children understand they must remain seated when they use scissors. As a result, children are acquiring the skills for learning that they will need to be ready for school. Children understand the importance of good hygiene procedures and independently wash their hands as necessary. However, not all staff promote the good health and well-being of children. Some staff in the baby room do not clean children's tables hygienically. They use the same brush to sweep up food debris directly from the floor and then immediately sweep food directly off the snack table. This compromises children's good health.

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

All members of staff have attended safeguarding training. However, they have not always followed their child protection procedures in a timely way when concerned about children's welfare. The provider has investigated a recent incident and held staff meetings to reinforce procedures. The manager fully understands her role in notifying Ofsted of any significant events and completes accurate records of any investigations. The manager monitors the educational programmes and children's learning and development. However, the quality of teaching is inconsistent, so not all children make good progress. The manager ensures that all staff have ample opportunities for training. Behaviour management training at induction results in a consistent and positive approach. Consequently, children behave well. The manager evaluates the provision by taking account of parents' questionnaires and through self-evaluation.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY477661
<b>Local authority</b>	Gloucestershire
<b>Inspection number</b>	1005719
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	65
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	91
<b>Name of provider</b>	Secret Garden Nursery Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	01452 552108

The Secret Garden Children's Day Nursery opened in 2014. The nursery is open daily between 8am and 6pm, all year round, except bank holidays. The nursery employs 16 staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. One member of staff holds a degree in Early Childhood Studies. One staff member is currently undertaking an apprenticeship scheme to gain appropriate qualifications. The nursery receives support from the local authority.

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.

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