

Inspection date

10 March 2015

Previous inspection date

17 March 2009

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

- Safeguarding practices are not monitored well enough to ensure children's safety is promoted fully. Risks to children playing outdoors are not minimised. Staff do not always follow the safeguarding policy in relation to the use of mobile phones.
- Leaders do not ensure all safeguarding and welfare requirements are met. They have not notified Ofsted about a change of manager in the setting. They do not ensure all records relating to staff suitability are available for inspection.
- Arrangements to monitor staff's performance and the full implementation of all safeguarding and welfare requirements are not rigorous enough. This has led to poor practice.

It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy a very harmonious environment where they develop positive relationships with staff and other children. This supports their social skills and emotional well-being.
- Staff speak to parents and school staff to find out how they can complement children's learning at nursery and school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure the safeguarding policy is consistently implemented in relation to staff usage of mobile phones
- take all reasonable steps to remove, minimise and manage risks and hazards to protect children's safety outdoors, particularly in relation to the security of the area and staff's knowledge of how many children are outdoors
- ensure records are available for inspection relating to staff qualifications, and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed for staff.

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

- monitor more closely staff's performance and the implementation of all safeguarding and welfare requirements to ensure consistently good practice.

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

- keep and implement a written record of policies and procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff in their care (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- inform Ofsted of the appointment of a new manager of childcare (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that a child is unable to leave the premises without a person who is caring for children on those premises becoming aware of the child leaving (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- keep and implement a written record of policies and procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff in their care (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- inform Ofsted of the appointment of a new manager of childcare (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that a child is unable to leave the premises unsupervised except where the childcare is open access childcare, or where the child is aged eight or over and the parent of the child has agreed that they may leave the provision unaccompanied (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the hall and outdoor play area.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to the owner on the phone during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views
- The inspector looked at children's records, a record of staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a broad range of activities to promote children's learning and enjoyment across the seven areas of learning. They work in partnership with parents and school staff to obtain information about children's interests and learning. They use this information to plan activities to support and complement children's learning at school in areas, such as writing and mathematical skills. Children state they like attending the club and they enjoy taking an active part in planning activities with staff. This helps to extend children's critical thinking and communication and language skills by thinking about things together and exploring ideas. It also supports children's independence and confidence. Staff provide a variety of resources and tools for children to use for their own purpose. Children use their skills and ideas to design their own work, such as Mother's Day cards.

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

Staff do not ensure children are safe because hazards in the environment are not always identified and minimised. A gate that leads out onto the street is left open when children play outdoors. This means unauthorised persons can enter children's play space. Staff do not always know how many children are outdoors. Therefore, they cannot be certain that all children return indoors when the outdoor session ends. Safeguarding policies and procedures are not consistently implemented by staff. On the day of inspection, staff responsible for transporting children in their car were carrying their personal mobile phones. Key persons work with parents to provide individual support to help new children to settle in the club. Staff treat children courteously and with kindness, and this is reflected in children's behaviour towards each other. Staff provide activities and experiences to support children's growing awareness of healthy lifestyles. Children say they really like playing outdoors. They enjoy becoming physically active as they run around and play games, such as hopscotch and football. Children like the range of snacks provided. Snacks promote healthy options, such as fresh fruit, salad and raw vegetables.

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

Leadership and management is not effective in making sure all welfare requirements are met. Not enough checks are made to ensure staff follow the mobile phone policy and procedure, which is in place to keep children safe. Robust risk assessments are not undertaken of the outdoor play area. Therefore, all reasonable steps have not been taken to keep children safe as they play. The requirement to notify Ofsted that there is a new manager in place has not been met. A record of all staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks were made available for inspection. Records to show that staff's suitability has been checked with regard to their identity, qualifications and employment history were not made available for inspection. Staff have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to child protection. They recognise the signs of abuse and they know who to report their concerns to.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY289286
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	856329
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Elaine Willan
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2009
Telephone number	07746290204

Little Academy was registered in 2004. It operates from Tividale Hall Primary School in Dudley. The setting employs four members of staff. The setting opens each weekday from 7.45am to 8.45am and from 3.30pm to 5.30pm term time only.

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

