

Nursery on the Green

74 Church Green Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK3 6BY



Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

21 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 staff's quality of teaching and use of toys and resources are not consistently good across the nursery to fully support children's learning experiences.
- The arrangements for monitoring staff performance are not robust enough to determine the impact of teaching and to securely identify future training needs.
- Children do not have enough choices of healthy food and drinks at snack times, and staff do not make use of existing furniture to enable the toddlers to sit comfortably.
- Staff do not fully encourage children's independence skills in preparation for school.

It has the following strengths

- The kind and caring staff develop close relationships with children. Children are well behaved, play cooperatively together and learn to share and take turns.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are strong. Parents are fully involved in their child's learning and staff share ideas of how to extend learning at home. Parents think highly of the staff and feel their children make good progress in their communication skills.
- Staff are quick to identify where children may require extra help and work closely with other professionals to support them effectively in the nursery.
- Staff carry out thorough risk assessments so children play safely and securely. They have a good knowledge and understanding of local safeguarding procedures to protect children.
- Children are happy in the nursery and they enjoy worthwhile outdoor play experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that all staff develop further understanding of the educational programme to provide good learning experiences for children and make better use of existing resources
- improve the quality of teaching by monitoring staff and providing coaching to raise standards and learning outcomes for children
- ensure children have a choice of healthy snacks and drinks.

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

- provide further opportunities for children to develop their independence skills
- improve the organisation of snack time to make the environment more comfortable for younger children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all play rooms and the garden.
- The inspector had discussions with children, parents and staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at observation files, tracking systems, the self-evaluation form and a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector

Kim Mundy

Inspection findings

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

Children make steady progress overall because staff provide enjoyable activities based on their interests, indoors and outside. However, staff do not always make best use of the wide range of toys and resources to develop children's thoughts and ideas. The quality of teaching is variable across the nursery because not all staff have a good knowledge of the early learning goals or use effective techniques. For example, they do not always use probing questions to extend children's thinking and responses. This limits children's good progress and readiness for school. Staff consistently assess and record children's progress and identify their next steps for learning. Children develop some independence skills as they play, but staff do not take all opportunities to encourage them to complete tasks such as preparing their snacks. Children develop their creativity as they act out during role-play, sing and dance, and enjoy art and craft activities. They enjoy activities in the garden such as filling and emptying containers and digging.

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

Staff get to know the children well when they first start and they find out as much as they can from parents about their routines, likes and dislikes. Therefore, children are happy and secure. Children learn to wash their hands during the routine of the day. Staff follow effective hygiene procedures for nappy changing, storage of children's bedding and food preparation. The cook prepares home-cooked food, which children enjoy. However, children do not have enough healthy food and drink choices at snack time, especially in the baby room. In addition, staff do not make use of suitable seating for toddlers to eat comfortably in the pre-school room. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise as they use the good range of apparatus in the enticing nursery garden. Babies use push-along toys to strengthen their muscles for walking, and older children develop good physical skills as they climb, slide and balance.

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

The manager is a positive role model and she is supportive of her team. The manager implements suitable recruitment procedures, along with an appropriate induction programme for new staff. Staff have meetings and yearly appraisals with the manager. However, these are not sufficiently robust to fully monitor and develop their ongoing performance. Furthermore, the manager does not carry out focused observations of staff's teaching skills to raise practice across the nursery. All the staff and parents have opportunities to be involved with the nursery's reflective self-evaluation process and staff are keen to develop the service they provide.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141756
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	836617
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	Jacqueline Sylvia Waller
Date of previous inspection	21 February 2011
Telephone number	01908 374757

Nursery on the Green registered in 1992. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm. It is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There are eight members of staff. The manager and deputy hold relevant qualifications to level 6 and, of the remaining staff, five hold qualifications between level 2 and level 5.

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