

Kings Nursery

35 King Street, BLACKBURN, BB2 2DH



Inspection date

19 March 2015

Previous inspection date

21 March 2014

	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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 quality of teaching varies between staff. Some staff miss chances to effectively support children to be independent in their learning and try things for themselves.
- Staff do not always focus sufficiently on the developmental needs of younger children when planning activities. Some activities are too challenging for two-year-olds, so they do not make the best possible progress.
- Staff do not regularly encourage parents to share children's home interests and achievements to inform the activities they plan.

It has the following strengths

- Behaviour is good because staff regularly praise children and set clear expectations.
- Staff are warm towards children, as a result they are happy and feel secure.
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is effective and they make steady progress because staff have made links with external agencies and parents are included in this process.
- The management team shows drive and commitment to improve and has made positive changes to the monitoring and evaluation of some staff practice and performance, enabling them to raise the quality of some teaching and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the consistency of teaching to strengthen children's learning by ensuring all staff provide opportunities to allow children to take risk, engage in new experiences, and learn by having a go
- ensure that planned activities are based on accurate observations and assessments and provide appropriate challenge for younger children to help them to make good progress in their learning.

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

- enhance partnership working with parents, so that all staff consistently promote parental involvement in the planning, observation and assessment of their children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the designated playrooms and viewed the resources and equipment available to the children.
- The inspector sought the views of parents through discussion.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, deputy manager and members of staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of the staff working with children, the nursery's improvement plan and a selection of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Sue Rae

Inspection findings

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

Children do not make good progress because staff do not plan activities well enough. Staff observe children in their play and assesses what they are able to do. However, staff do not plan experiences that match what they know about the individual children in their care. Therefore, although, children enjoy engaging in a range of activities, staff do not effectively support children's next steps in learning. Staff provide children with some opportunities to make marks in various ways, such as by using paint. This activity supports coordination and early writing skills in readiness for school. Staff name many resources and ask questions, which encourage children to think and practise their developing language skills. Staff routinely extend children's vocabulary by introducing new words. The quality of teaching varies between staff. Some activities are too adult-led and do not allow children to be independent and try things for themselves. Staff carry out the progress checks for all children between the ages of two and three years.

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

The environment is safe and welcoming with a variety of resources. All children are allocated a key person when they start, helping them to form appropriate bonds with familiar people. Children are happy and confidently explore their surroundings. They comfortably chat with staff and enjoy playing alongside them. Staff teach children health and safety practices. Staff provide a range of healthy options for snack and teach children about healthy lifestyles. Children's behaviour is good. Staff give specific praise to children, which promotes their self-esteem. Communication between the staff and parents is primarily focused on children's care needs. There is no effective system in place to share information to support children's learning and development at home.

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

The managers hold regular meetings to ensure staff understand their responsibilities, particularly for safeguarding children. They deploy first-aid qualified staff effectively, so they are on-hand in the event of an accident or incident. Managers have a reasonable understanding of their responsibilities and a range of procedures and policies to support children's health, safety and well-being. They have started to monitor the educational programmes for children. However, the monitoring is not fully embedded and enabling all staff to develop their skills in observation, assessment and planning effectively. The management has appropriate systems to check that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff supervision meetings provide opportunities for staff to discuss their professional development and training requirements. Staff have attended training, which means that the quality of provision has started to improve. Partnerships with parents are positive and staff work with other professionals to support children's needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY462274
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	974941
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	East Lancashire Deaf Society Ltd
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2014
Telephone number	01254 671770

Kings Nursery was registered in 2013. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three are qualified to level 3 and one holds a level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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