

Noah`s Ark Nursery School

Downlands Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5EF



Inspection date

25 March 2015

Previous inspection date

15 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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		Good	2
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:

- Methods for monitoring of children's progress are not yet consistent across the nursery, which mean some children do not progress as well as they could.
- Staff do not note children's starting points in relation to learning areas. This slows the implementation of early strategies to help children catch up in their learning.
- Methods for checking that the quality of educational provision is consistent across the nursery are not in place. Some of the adult-directed tasks for the younger children are not suited to supporting their progress and the older children sit for too long at group times.
- Arrangements for performance management and supervision are not securely and regularly in place.
- Systems for engaging and involving all families and for promoting learning at home do not yet support the good progress of all children.

It has the following strengths

- Staff provide a safe, stimulating environment and relationships are strong between staff and children. As a result, children are happy, independent and confident learners.
- Children in the pre-school room are well prepared to start school.
- Staff skilfully develop children's mathematical skills and knowledge.
- Staff are clear about how to manage safeguarding and child protection issues. Staff teach children effective health and safety practices.
- Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals, which promote their good health and personal independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the overall monitoring of all children's progress in the setting by ensuring children's starting points are noted on entry and that observations of children are used well to assess children's progress and plan for individual children's learning
- improve the monitoring of staff practice and the standard of teaching across the setting through room observations, sampling records and regular supervision to check that teaching is of a consistently good standard
- check that activities consistently provide challenging learning and stimulating experiences across the nursery.

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

- further develop the engagement and involvement of all parents in their children's learning
- review timings to ensure that children are not sitting for too long at group times
- access staff training on teaching letter sounds to ensure a consistent approach.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises and looked at spaces and resources used by children.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents, the manager and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children playing and staff interactions with them.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation and discussed the suitability of staff, qualifications of staff and the self-evaluation process.

Inspector

Julie Eden

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a range of interesting activities to promote children's learning and development both indoors and outside. However, the adult-directed activities seen were less interesting for the younger children and the creative work displayed did not reflect their individuality. Children use a wide range of resources and staff encourage them with additional ideas to extend their learning. Children's social skills, communication and language are promoted well. Staff are skilled at weaving mathematical ideas through the day and children talk confidently about numbers, positional language and size. Staff routinely assess children's learning but these assessments are not always focused enough on some individual children to ensure that their next steps in learning are supported. Staff do not make assessments on entry to nursery soon enough to identify children who may need support to catch up. Parents are welcomed into the nursery but the systems need reviewing to engage all parents and support learning at home.

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

The environment is safe and welcoming. The interesting range of resources is clearly labelled and accessible, helping children to be independent. After a healthy snack time the older children work together well to wash and dry their plates and cups. Warm relationships are evident at all levels. Staff support children's emotional development well through the key-person system. The children are well behaved and understand rules that keep them safe and well. For example, they know not to cross the boundary line on the ride-on toys outside. Children know when to wash their hands. Children choose when to play outside and mix with all children in the nursery; this supports children's independence well.

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

The manager has a reasonable understanding of her responsibilities. However, the overview of teaching, children's progress and assessment practice across the nursery is not securely in place. As a result, some groups of children who may be underachieving are not identified early enough and assessment systems are not consistent across the nursery. Individual child observations lack detail for the younger children and are overly focused on group activities. Staff supervision and training does not focus on improving in the quality of teaching. There are procedures to assess the suitability of staff to work with children but Ofsted has not been notified of a change in the committee as required. Training to enhance safeguarding and welfare practice is strong. Managers are firmly committed to improvement and routinely evaluate the provision using a recognised quality assurance system.

Setting details

Unique reference number	145998
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	825884
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	66
Name of provider	Noah`s Ark Nursery School Committee
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	01380 727203

Noah's Ark Nursery School opened in 1998 and registered with Ofsted in 2001. It is located in the grounds of Wansdyke Primary School, Devizes. The nursery is open each weekday from 8.55am until 3pm. Sessions are from 8.55am until 12 noon, and from 12 noon until 3pm. There are 10 staff, including an apprentice and all hold appropriate early years qualifications, bar the apprentice, which include Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status. The nursery provides some free early education to children aged three and four years.

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