

Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

30 October 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 procedure for administering non-prescribed medicine for pain relief lacks clarity. Parents provide prior consent for staff to administer medicine on children's enrolment forms. However, this is not specific enough to fully meet the requirements.
- Children's progress is not yet consistently good. Staff do not plan for children's next steps by identifying the gaps in their learning and providing challenging activities to address them, as they focus their planning on extending children's interests.
- Partnerships with the other settings children attend are too weak to provide children with a coordinated effort to support them in making the best possible progress.
- Systems to monitor the overall progress children make and the performance of staff, are not yet fully embedded. This means that the manager's action plan for improvement is not sharply focused on supporting staff to continuously improve their teaching, to benefit children.
- Parents are not fully involved in contributing to an assessment of their children's achievements. Information asked for from parents about what children can do when they start the nursery and on an ongoing basis, is not sufficiently detailed to enable staff to robustly assess children's abilities.

It has the following strengths

- All staff have attended recent training to update their knowledge of safeguarding procedures. Children are protected from harm because staff can confidently identify any possible causes for concern and know the referral process, should they have concerns for their well-being.
- Children are motivated to learn by the wide range of activities provided outdoors. They have great fun as staff support them to transport water, balance on wooden beams and dig in the sand and soil.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that when parents provide written consent to administer medicine to children, the name of the medicine is recorded
- ensure that the gaps identified in children's achievements are used to plan for the next steps in their learning by providing well-matched, challenging activities across all areas of learning
- develop partnerships with the other settings children attend, so that information can be shared and a coordinated approach to promoting children's learning and development can be implemented.

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

- embed fully the systems for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, so that areas for development are swiftly identified and action plans are sharply focused on driving improvement
- extend the information gathered from parents when children enrol and on an ongoing basis, so that a more detailed assessment of each child's achievements can be made.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including planning, observations and assessment records. She also looked at a range of health and safety documentation and information used to evidence the suitability of staff and first-aid qualifications.
- The inspector observed activities and care practices in the playrooms and within the outside play area. She conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children and staff. She also held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to during the inspection and read their comments in parent surveys.

Inspector

Valerie Aspinall

Inspection findings

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

The new staff team have a sound understanding of the learning and development requirements. They observe children regularly and link what they have seen to the seven areas of learning. However, children's achievements are not always accurately assessed on entry or on an ongoing basis because parents are not always encouraged to contribute detailed information about what their children can do. In addition, staff plan for children based on their interests and do not consider the gaps in their learning. Consequently, the progress children make is variable. Teaching is better outdoors, than indoors. For example, indoors, while some children enjoy practising their pencil control by drawing letter shapes, others, who prefer to be active, lose interest quickly.

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

Children respond affectionately to staff, offering spontaneous hugs throughout the day. Children are settled and their emotional needs are met well. For example, toddlers learning to walk thrive on the praise they receive for their efforts and are motivated to keep trying. Babies who feel unwell are cuddled and soothed. However, the procedure for administering medicine for pain relief, lacks clarity. When gaining written consent to administer medicine from parents, the specific medicine is not always named. However, generally, staff telephone parents prior to giving pain relief medication to children, so risks to their health are minimal. Children enjoy extended periods of time playing outdoors. They have ample opportunity to refine their physical skills and develop their imaginations. For example, they paint the shed with water, hide in the den and play with hoola hoops. Children play cooperatively together and positive behaviour is rewarded by taking home a special teddy bear. They visit the next room before the move becomes permanent, this helps them to form an attachment to their new key person. Older children are helped to get ready for school. They learn to sit and listen in small groups, independently cut up their food and wash their hands before meals.

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

The manager has tried hard to address the weaknesses identified during the last inspection. Changes have been made to the staff team and to the nursery environment, which have had a positive impact on children's learning. For example, the manager has ensured that staff have sufficient knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to adequately meet children's needs. The staff team work closely with local authority advisors and have invited other providers into the nursery to help identify areas for improvement. However, new monitoring systems, such as observations of staff practice and an overview of children's progress, are not yet fully embedded. Consequently, despite being well qualified, staff are not being robustly guided to provide challenging learning activities, which address the gaps in children's learning. While attempts have been made to establish links with the other settings children attend, the efforts have not yet resulted in the provision of effective partnerships to coordinate children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	322394
Local authority	Liverpool
Inspection number	998910
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Susan Herrity
Date of previous inspection	30 October 2014
Telephone number	0151 260 4600

Playdays was registered in 1998. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for one week between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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

