

Ciara's Tots

88 Carmoor Road, Manchester, M13 0FB



Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

27 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		Good	2
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:

- Staff's hygiene procedures in the baby and toddler rooms do not consistently promote children's good health.
- The safety arrangements for accessing the premises are not robust enough to protect children from unauthorised persons entering the building.
- Some routines do not run smoothly when children move between activities, causing some children to become restless.

It has the following strengths

- Staff have established strong partnerships with parents and other professionals, which helps to ensure that they securely meet children's welfare needs. This collaborative approach also ensures that the children's learning is maximised.
- There is a secure management structure, which supports staff development. Staff have regular supervision, meetings and training. Consequently, staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities, in particular how to plan for children's future learning.
- Staff provide a welcoming and interesting environment both indoors and outdoors. Children make independent choices, are engaged in the activities and have opportunities to relax.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve hygiene procedures in the baby and toddler rooms to support children's good health more fully
- take steps to ensure the premises are secure so that unauthorised persons are unable to gain entry.

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

- organise routines so they run more smoothly when moving between activities.

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

- 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)
- 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 took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector held meetings with the deputy manager and the owner of the nursery.
- The inspector observed children in play and in their interactions with staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including policies, procedures and children's records. The manager's self-evaluation form was discussed.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of staff working within the setting.

Inspector

Helen Gaze

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is consistently good. The well-qualified team supports all children to become active learners through purposeful and stimulating learning experiences. This results in high levels of engagement and participation during activities. As a result, children build on their existing skills and knowledge, preparing them well for their future learning and for school. Staff working with the over two-year-olds use every opportunity to develop their mathematics and literacy skills. Children research information in books and make observational drawings of insects to develop their early reading and writing skills. They develop counting skills as they count the spots on the ladybirds. Children of all ages develop their skills for speaking and listening. Staff provide lots of opportunities for talk. They listen perceptively to babies and repeat back what older children say. Picture routines ensure children can make their wishes known and this ensures children who speak English as an additional language are fully included.

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

Staff promote children's good health generally well. They provide balanced meals and teach children about washing their hands before eating. However, when wiping children's noses in the baby and toddler rooms, staff do not wash their hands or dispose of used tissues appropriately. This heightens the risk of cross-contamination, illness and infection. Children behave very well. This is because routines are flexible and support all children's emotional and physical needs. For example, staff soothe babies to sleep when they show signs of tiredness, and older children enjoy regular outdoor play sessions and group times to develop their social skills. However, some aspects of children's routines do not run smoothly. This is because older children are not always given timely warning to fully prepare them for the next activity, such as lunchtime. This means that some children show reluctance to finish what they are doing and show signs of restlessness.

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

Staff have adequate procedures in place to protect children from harm. For example, they make suitable daily checks of the premises and understand the reporting procedures for if they had a concern about a child's welfare. They monitor the front door at drop-off times and parents ring a buzzer to gain entry. There is a key-code entry system for staff, video surveillance and safety gates to access areas where children play are in place so that they keep safe. However, these procedures do not always effectively safeguard children because unauthorised persons are sometimes able to access the premises when adults hold the door open for them to enter. The manager has addressed the areas for improvement set at the last inspection. Staff now routinely observe and assess children's progress and support their next steps. Self-evaluation is more robust and meaningful and managers welcome the suggestions from the local authority, parents and staff. As a result, the educational programmes are suitably monitored to ensure they have depth and breadth across the seven areas of learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY224528
Local authority	Manchester
Inspection number	1010708
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Ciara's Tots Partnership
Date of previous inspection	27 March 2014
Telephone number	0161 248 5340

Ciara's Tots Day nursery was registered in 2003. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Qualified Teacher Status and one with level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery supports a number of children with English as an additional language.

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