

Children 1st

Lysander Road, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST3 7TW



Inspection date

23 April 2015

Previous inspection date

10 May 2012

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		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:

- There are weaknesses in the accident and injury procedures. The provider is unaware of their duty to report serious injuries to the local child protection agency.
- Staff do not always identify children's level of achievement across all areas of learning. Consequently, they are not well informed about what children need to learn next, which hinders children's progress.
- Staff do not always maximise opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to use their home language during their play.

It has the following strengths

- Children experience a wealth of activities that help them to develop their understanding of the world. For example, children study tadpoles and learn about the life cycle of the frog. Children make soup, pizzas and jam tarts, plant beans and cress, explore snow, investigate bugs and make and use solar eclipse viewers.
- There are positive relationships with parents and strong links with other professionals, including those who support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This means there is a shared approach to children's care and learning so that they receive consistent support.
- Staff's practice is monitored and any training needs are identified so that children make suitable progress. Staff have suitable knowledge of the signs of abuse and their responsibilities to protect children from harm. A number of staff have attended paediatric first-aid training, which provides them with the knowledge and skills required to effectively administer first aid.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that the local child protection agency is notified of any serious accident or injury to a child at the nursery, so that any advice can be acted on immediately
- ensure that effective assessment procedures are followed, so that children's next steps in their learning are precisely identified and planned for to promote good progress.

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

- explore more ways to support the communication skills for children who speak English as an additional language, for example, by creating personalised family books that contain familiar, everyday pictures and words in their home language and in English.

Inspection activities

- This inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information received about the provider.
- The inspector observed activities in the ground floor and first floor playrooms and in the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the management of the provision and the director of the company.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Linda Yates

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is not consistently good. This is because staff do not always assess children across all aspects of the areas of learning. For example, some children's current communication skills have not been effectively assessed. Consequently, staff do not always have all the information they need to effectively plan for children's next steps in their learning. The well-qualified and experienced staff use a wide range of effective teaching strategies in their interactions with the children. For example, during a woodwork activity, children are taught how to use tools and try out new skills. Each child is praised for their attempts, developing their self-confidence. The key person uses commentary to extend children's understanding as they use the hammer and screwdriver. She develops children's communication skills by introducing new vocabulary and using questions that challenge children to think. Children who speak English as an additional language have some opportunities to use their home language in their play. However, the displays in different languages do not always reflect the languages spoken by the children attending. As a result, some children are not achieving their full potential, although they do gain the basic skills they need to be ready for school.

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

Staffing arrangements ensure that children are usually within sight and hearing of staff, and always within sight or hearing. There are annual and daily assessments which are regularly reviewed in order to protect children from harm. However, a child still sustained a serious injury while playing on a scooter at the nursery. At the inspection it was found that the provider had taken immediate action to resolve this issue and has checked all outdoor bikes and scooters to ensure they are safe. Staff provide warm and loving care and respond sensitively to children's communications. This helps children to form secure emotional attachments and promotes their sense of security and belonging. Meals and snacks provided for the children are very nutritious and balanced. Children's independence skills are promoted well, particularly during mealtimes. For example, the older children serve themselves at lunchtime and pour their own drinks. Children enjoy a wide range of toys and equipment that promote their physical development outdoors.

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

The provider has a reasonable understanding of their responsibilities. However, they have not effectively evaluated the nursery to ensure that they are meeting all the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. The monitoring of children's assessments is not rigorous enough to ensure that all aspects of learning are being covered adequately by staff. Additionally, there are weaknesses in the accident and injury procedures as the provider has failed to notify the local child protection agency of an accident which resulted in a child being injured at the nursery. The provider has a suitable understanding of the requirement to notify Ofsted of any serious incident or changes to the provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440073
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	1012169
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	220
Name of provider	Children 1st Limited
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2012
Telephone number	0115 973 2600

Children 1st was registered in 2011 and is one of two nurseries managed by Children 1st Limited. It is part of a large family-owned business, which also incorporates Breedon House Nursery Limited who manage another 16 nurseries. The setting employs 28 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold a foundation degree, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and three hold level 2. The nursery operates from 7.15am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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