

Little Rascals Play School

The Parish Centre at St Chads, Connaught Road, Bilston, WV14 6NY



Inspection date

5 May 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 is variable. Staff do not always plan activities effectively to ensure that the learning experience is purposeful or meets the learning needs of all children.
- The key-person system is not always effective. Although all children are allocated an individual key person, there are occasions when children's care is not fully tailored to their needs. Furthermore, parents are not aware of who their child's individual key person is.

It has the following strengths

- Children's speech and language acquisition is promoted effectively by staff during activities. Staff model language for children to copy, in particular when using descriptive words.
- Staff have a secure understanding of child protection matters and the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child in their care. This helps to safeguard children's welfare.
- Children have plenty of space to play and explore with a variety of resources inside and outside, that promotes their physical development well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that learning experiences are planned to be interesting and challenging, taking account of children's varying ages and capabilities at all times so they are able to make the best possible progress
- ensure that an effective and robust key-person system is in place for all children to support their individual needs.

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

- review how information is shared with parents, such as a change of key person so that they are kept well informed.

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection following information we received about this provider.
- The inspector observed children taking part in a range of activities and spoke with the staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the owner and held a meeting with her.
- The inspector checked evidence of Disclosure and Barring Service checks and suitability, qualifications and training of staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of policies, procedures, risk assessments and the pre-school's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector spoke to a small sample of parents and has taken account of their views.

Inspector

Carole Price

Inspection findings

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

Staff offer an adequate range of activities to engage children and observe them in their play to identify the next steps in learning. However, staff do not then use this information effectively to plan activities to challenge or extend children's learning. Furthermore, staff do not always ensure that the resources they have are appropriate. For example, children are encouraged to draw an animal they may see at a zoo. However, staff do not provide a range of zoo animals or discuss which animals they may see in a zoo setting.

Nevertheless, during free play, staff respond to children's ideas. For example, children use the play food and set up a shop so they can buy their chosen items. Staff engage in the play as they discuss how much the items cost. They also discuss where items, such as milk comes from. This helps to develop children's understanding and prepare them for future learning in school.

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

Children are allocated an individual key person upon entry to the pre-school. However, due to a number of staff changes and reallocation of key persons, the system is not working as effectively as it could be. This means that, on occasion, children's care is not fully tailored to their needs. Furthermore, parents are unaware of whom their child's individual key person is. Nevertheless, staff are caring and take an interest in what children have to say. They praise children for their successes, which boosts their self-esteem. Children, on the whole, behave well because staff remind them of the behaviour expectations of the pre-school. Children are encouraged to use their manners and take turns and share the resources so that they learn to play cooperatively with others. Children have opportunities to play and exercise outside in the fresh air, and staff provide a range of resources to support them to strengthen their larger muscles. This helps to promote children's good health.

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

This inspection took place following concerns regarding the safety and supervision of children, particularly upon arrival at the pre-school. Following these concerns, several changes have been made to increase the safety and security of all children. There are now two members of senior staff available to meet and greet the children. At the inspection, documentation, such as policies, procedures and risk assessments were viewed, which further demonstrates the changes implemented. The management team is highly focused on improving standards within the pre-school. There are regular observations of staff practice along with supervisions and appraisals. Training is offered to staff regularly, in order to further improve their practice and most staff are qualified. However, they do not use their knowledge to plan activities to help children make good progress. Tracking of children's progress across the pre-school has been implemented, in order to identify any gaps in their learning. Parents are kept informed about their child's learning through discussions and also how they can support their child's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY475797
Local authority	Wolverhampton
Inspection number	1013061
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Little Rascals Childcare (West Midlands) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01902 405 913

Little Rascals Play School was registered in 2014. The play school employs five members of childcare staff, of whom, four hold an appropriate early years qualification. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday for 47 weeks. Sessions are, from 9am until 12 noon and 12.45pm until 3.45pm. The play school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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