

Inspection date

3 June 2015

Previous inspection date

3 April 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Inadequate	4
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Children make insufficient progress in their learning. This is because the system used to track children's progress gives an inaccurate picture of what children can do and what they need to learn next. This affects the quality of teaching because staff do not provide activities that are matched to children's individual needs.
- Children's well-being is not assured because staff do not understand or implement child protection procedures. Their safety is further compromised because staff fail to report possible child protection concerns in a timely manner.
- Children's health is compromised because staff are not aware of children's dietary needs, including allergies, and they do not record medication given to children.
- Arrangements to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are weak. This significantly affects children's development and their move on to school.
- Staff do not complete the required progress checks for children aged two years. As a result, parents receive too little information about their children's progress and staff cannot identify emerging concerns in order to meet children's learning and development needs.

It has the following strengths

- Children form secure attachments with their key persons, which gives them a sense of belonging.
- The recently appointed management team understands clearly what needs to be achieved to improve the quality of the provision and meet children's needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take the following enforcement action:

implement the policy and procedures for administering medicines by keeping a written record each time a medicine is administered to a child to ensure their good health

ensure all staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues so that they are able to identify signs and symptoms of possible abuse and can respond in a timely and appropriate way.

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

- ensure staff are able to use observation and assessment to fully understand children's levels of achievement, interests and learning styles, and use this information to check that children are making sufficient progress to support them in their move to school
- ensure suitable arrangements are in place to identify and support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities; have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice to help children achieve the best possible outcomes in all aspects of their development; and ensure that this information is shared to promote continuity in children's care, learning and development
- review children's progress when they are aged between two and three years to identify the child's strengths and any areas where progress is less than expected, and provide parents and/or carers with a short written summary of their child's development
- take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well by liaising with the local statutory children's services agencies and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board when needed
- promote the good health of children by ensuring staff are aware of any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies that children may have, and ensure that staff act to meet their dietary needs.

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

- ensure staff fully understand the written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that children are kept safe and well by liaising with the local Safeguarding Children Board and Director of Children's Services as appropriate (compulsory part of Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risk to the health and safety of children by ensuring staff are aware of children's dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies (compulsory part of Childcare Register)
- ensure the good health of children by keeping a record of any medicine administered to a child who is cared for on the premises, including the date, circumstances and who administered it (compulsory part of Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff in the playrooms and the outdoor play areas.
- The inspector reviewed a wide range of documentation including policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to the manager and staff about children's progress and development.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children.
- The inspector took account of parents' views of the nursery.

Inspector

Patricia Graham

Inspection findings

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

Children's learning and development are significantly compromised because staff are not aware of children's capabilities. This results in poor teaching because activities are not focused on the areas of greatest need. Staff provide too few opportunities for children who struggle to make relationships to develop their social skills. As a result, children make insufficient progress, which hinders their future learning and their move on to school. Children who need additional support often go unnoticed. Consequently, they do not receive the support they need, such as support from external agencies, to help them achieve the best possible outcomes. A newly introduced system to observe and track children's progress is not yet effective because staff lack confidence in carrying out observations. As a result, development records are inaccurate and some, such as the required progress check for two-year-old children, have not been completed. Therefore, parents are not always kept up to date on their children's progress, which affects their ability to extend their child's learning at home. Children engage in free play, and can choose whether to play indoors or out, which gives them choices. They benefit from fresh air and exercise as they play in the well-resourced outdoor play area. They explore sensory resources, which stimulate their curiosity. However, activities are not planned for a purpose, which limits children's learning and development.

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

Children are not safe because their overall well-being is compromised by weak safeguarding procedures. Staff lack the knowledge to enable them to recognise possible concerns and, therefore, are unable to take appropriate action to keep children safe. However, Staff are kind and sensitive to children's care needs; they provide a relaxed and calm environment at sleep time. They have also received training that specifically addresses the care of babies. As a result, children and babies are settled, contented and sleep in line with their home routines. Children behave well and are developing an awareness of right and wrong. They enjoy suitable meals and snacks, and develop self-help skills as they begin to feed themselves competently using appropriate cutlery. However, children's good health is not always assured because some staff are not aware of children's dietary needs.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is inadequate

Since the last inspection, there have been a number of visits from Ofsted in response to concerns raised. As a result of these visits, the provider was required to take immediate action to address the weaknesses identified. Although improvements have been made, not all have been sustained because monitoring of the provision has not been rigorous enough. Consequently, a number of legal requirements are not met, which compromises children's safety, well-being and learning. Procedures for administering medication are not sufficiently robust because staff do not record when medicine is given to a child. Not all staff understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, and the provision to support

children's learning and development remains weak. A newly appointed manager is now in place and, with the support of an external consultant, changes are already being made. The provider has appointed new staff to provide continuity for children and has introduced additional resources in each of the rooms to improve activities and experiences for children. In addition, staff are now receiving regular support and training to help them fulfil their roles. However, these changes have not yet resulted in the needs of all the children attending being met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY444272
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1016016
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	54
Name of provider	Little Rascals (Preston) Limited
Date of previous inspection	3 April 2013
Telephone number	01772 789419

Little Rascals was registered in 2012 to Little Rascals (Preston) Limited. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6pm, 51 weeks per year, closing on Bank Holidays and a week at Christmas.

The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association.

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.

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