

Downs Park Day Nursery

46 Downs Park West, Westbury Park, Bristol, BS6 7QL



Inspection date

10 June 2015

Previous inspection date

14 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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:

- Management and staff do not always ensure they promptly inform parents of any accidents or injuries their children sustain while at the nursery.
- Not all staff working with younger children understand and implement the observation, assessment and planning system consistently. Some staff do not complete precise assessments of younger children's learning and development or plan challenging activities to help them make good progress.
- Management does not monitor and evaluate staff practice and training needs effectively. As a result, there are weaknesses in staff's professional development and the quality of teaching is variable so children do not make consistently good progress.
- Staff do not plan well for children's use of the nursery garden to cover all areas of learning and to stimulate and challenge children's learning further.
- Some play rooms are less well equipped with a range of different material resources and many are not fully accessible to children. This limits children's ability to be fully independent in choosing what they would like to play with.

It has the following strengths

- Effective two-way sharing of information means that parents feel well informed about their child's care and learning.
- Children are happy, settled and relate well to the staff who promote their emotional well-being effectively. As a result, they behave well and are confident.
- Children aged three and four years benefit from consistently good teaching that challenges them effectively. Therefore, during the year they spend in this room, children make good progress which prepares them well for their move to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve procedures to inform parents and/or carers of any accidents or injuries sustained by their child on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practical
- ensure that the observation, assessment and planning process is understood and implemented consistently by all staff so that assessments of children are precise and used to plan challenging activities across all rooms to help children make good progress in their learning
- raise teaching to a consistently high quality by monitoring staff performance accurately and enable those working with younger children to undertake appropriate training and development opportunities to improve the quality of learning and development experiences they provide.

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

- improve the use of the outside garden area to enhance and increase the variety of learning opportunities for children
- improve environments to make them more stimulating so children are inspired in their learning and have easier access to a wider range of activities and resources to help them develop independence in their free play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the owner and manager at appropriate times during the inspection and in a scheduled meeting.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching inside and outside.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's records, planning and assessment records, and checked the suitability of staff to work with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of the inspection, and of the provider's self-evaluation.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.

Inspector

Dominique Bird

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide a suitable range of activities and experiences for children. However, staff working with younger children do not build on children's current abilities, which slows their progress. Staff make regular observations but do not use these to capture specific learning that has taken place. This affects staff's ability to accurately plan what young children need to learn next and which resources to make available. The quality of teaching that promotes learning varies. Staff do not always interact effectively with younger children and prioritise routine jobs. Teaching is most effective for children aged three and four years. Staff motivate children and offer interesting and challenging experiences. For example, staff teach children the number digits one to nine through exciting measuring activities using tape measures. Children read and write as they record their findings on clipboards. Staff encourage children to be independent and allow them to learn from mistakes. As a result, older children demonstrate a keen attitude towards learning.

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

There are weaknesses in the process that staff and management follow for sharing accidents with parents. This means that they do not make all parents aware of any accidents their children have at the nursery. Staff teach children good hygiene skills so they wash their hands before they eat. Staff ensure that children have opportunities to play outside in the fresh air which promotes their physical development and healthy lifestyles. Children enjoy regular outings that provide them with opportunities to learn about the nature and wider community. However, staff do not plan activities that cover all areas of learning outside to support children who prefer to learn outdoors. Staff have a suitable knowledge of how to keep children safe, and know how to implement safeguarding procedures if they have concerns.

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

Leadership requires improvement. Consequently, they do not monitor the quality of teaching across all areas of the nursery. Therefore, children's progress is not consistently good and the quality of staff teaching is variable. Staff supervisions provide some opportunities for staff to discuss their professional development, but this is not focused on raising the quality of teaching. The provider has not addressed fully the recommendation set at the last inspection to address staff training needs to improve the use of observations to identify what individual children need to learn next. Leaders demonstrate a capacity to implement changes identified through their self-evaluation of strengths and weaknesses. However, this has been slow in improving outcomes for children. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure appropriately qualified staff are suitable to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106941
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	835764
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	82
Name of provider	Downs Park Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	14 February 2011
Telephone number	0117 9628526

Downs Park Day Nursery opened in 1988 and operates from an Edwardian semi-detached house in the Westbury area of Bristol. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. There are 18 members of staff, of whom 17 work directly with the children. The manager has an early years degree, one member of staff has achieved Early Years Teacher Status and another has achieved Early Years Professional Status. Ten other staff have relevant qualifications at level 3. The nursery provides grant funding places for three and four-year-olds.

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