

Milnrow Pre-School Playgroup

Charles Lane, Milnrow, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 3NZ



Inspection date

24 June 2015

Previous inspection date

6 July 2011

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		Requires improvement	3
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

- There has been a change in manager and the staff team do not yet work together effectively. The manager fails to deploy staff in the children's best interest and to ensure their safety.
- Although risk assessments are recorded, they do not always translate into positive action to minimise risks to the children and as a result, children sustain accidental injuries.
- The quality of teaching and staff's engagement with the children is variable and this means that not all children make good progress.
- In relation to the provision for children aged between two and three years, staff do not consistently focus on the acquisition of communication and language skills or support their physical, personal and emotional development. This hinders children's learning and development.

It has the following strengths

- Links with parents and other professionals involved in supporting children's care and education are adequate and enables children to obtain the support they need.
- Overall, children are prepared adequately for their transitions within the setting and to school because staff provide enough support for their emotional well-being, in partnership with parents and key people from other settings.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the provision for the youngest children by focusing strongly on the prime areas of learning, and use the ongoing observations of children's interests and stages of development to consistently support children's next stage in learning
- improve the delivery of the educational programme by ensuring children's health and self-care is promoted consistently; this specifically relates to children managing their own basic care needs, such as the application of sun cream, choosing what they eat and pouring drinks at snack time
- ensure that there is a clear and well-understood policy and procedures for assessing any risks to children's safety; this specifically relates to the use of the climbing frame and the positioning of a storage unit in the playroom
- improve staff deployment to ensure staffing arrangements meet the needs of all children and children are adequately supervised at all times.

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

- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to children's safety; this specifically relates to the use of the climbing frame and the positioning of a storage unit in the playroom (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to children's safety; this specifically relates to the use of the climbing frame and the positioning of a storage unit in the playroom (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the premises in relation to health and safety.
- The inspector observed staff's practice and their engagement with children throughout the inspection.
- Children's activities were jointly observed and discussed with the manager in relation to staff's engagement with the children.
- The inspector looked at the children's records of achievement and observations and assessments in addition to other relevant documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff's suitability and qualifications and discussed the provider's self-evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Cathleen Howarth

Inspection findings

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

Children's starting points are discussed and recorded in partnership with parents at the point of entry. Staff routinely observe and assess children's development in order to track their progress in all areas over time. They appropriately use the information obtained to plan the next steps in children's learning and to help narrow any gaps in their learning. However, staff do not consistently support children's learning. Practice is variable and not always appropriate to meet the individual needs of children. For example, a high number of children aged between three and four years attend the morning session. In the afternoon this changes and younger children attend but staff fail to make adjustments to the environment and activities. They do not consistently focus on helping younger children to acquire communication and language skills, or support their physical, personal and emotional development. Some activities are mundane and lack sufficient challenge and therefore not all children make good progress.

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

The afternoon session is disorderly, although children clearly enjoy their time at the setting and they are confident. In relation to free play, there is a steady flow of young children who take turns to use the climbing frame in the playroom. However, not all children have developed control over their actions. Sometimes they slip, bang and trap themselves. Although the activity is risk assessed and recorded, staff are not vigilant enough to prevent accidents from occurring, for example, a child accidentally pulled over a storage unit. Staff apply children's sun cream before they play outside in the sun but some children are capable of identifying their own sun lotion and applying it themselves. Healthy eating is promoted well in partnership with parents who provide children's packed lunches. Staff supplement this by providing nutritious food and drink at snack time. However, some staff pour children's drinks and pass fresh fruit to the children. This hinders children's independence particularly in regard to health and self-care.

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

Although a high number of staff are qualified, including an Early Years Professional, there is too little understanding of the learning and development and safeguarding and welfare requirements, resulting in breaches that have a significant impact on children's safety and well-being. The manager observes and records the quality of staff's interactions with children. The information obtained from these observations is discussed at supervision. However, any actions taken to tackle areas of identified weakness have been insufficient, resulting in inconsistent practice. There are appropriate selection, recruitment, vetting and induction procedures in place. New members of staff understand relevant procedures to safeguard children. Brief staff absences are not managed well enough and children's activities are disturbed. The remaining staff are not re-deployed to ensure children get the support they need in relation to inside and outside play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	316412
Local authority	Rochdale
Inspection number	868359
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	66
Name of provider	Milnrow Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2011
Telephone number	01706 640 391

Milnrow Pre-School Playgroup was registered in 1992. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Early Years Professional status. It is open Monday to Friday during term time from 8.30am until 4pm and sessions are offered between these times. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

