

Lighthouse Centre

Sandy Lane, Chorlton, Manchester, Lancashire, M21 8TZ



Inspection date

6 July 2015

Previous inspection date

25 October 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:

- Leaders do not ensure that staff are suitably deployed in the early morning, in order to meet the needs of all children.
- The manager has not implemented a system to monitor staff. Staff do not receive the support they need to improve their practice, identify their training needs and ensure that all children are challenged in their learning.
- Staff do not consistently plan activities and experiences to support children's next steps in learning, to help them to make the best possible progress.

It has the following strengths

- Children's emotional well-being is promoted by the way they are welcomed into the nursery. Staff are friendly and warmly greet children as they arrive.
- Good relationships exist between staff and parents. Staff involve parents in their children's learning by using their observations from home. Parents are invited to a variety of activities in the nursery, and also attend many planned outings. As a result, parents' contributions are valued and they comment that they feel fully involved.
- The manager ensures that her staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. All staff are trained in child protection and are aware of the correct reporting procedures should they have concerns about children's welfare.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that staff are suitably deployed, particularly in the morning, in order to meet the needs of all children
- provide regular opportunities for staff to benefit from effective supervision arrangements, such as coaching and guidance, to identify any training needs, improve their knowledge, understanding and practice, so that children's learning is consistently supported
- improve the planning for activities so that they meet children's individual needs, for example, by making sure that staff consistently plan for the next steps in children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the nursery rooms and outdoor areas.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation and held discussions with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and gained the views of parents.
- 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, and reviewed the nursery's self-evaluation and action plans.

Inspector

Layla Louise Clarke

Inspection findings

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

Staff plan suitable activities to motivate children. Staff support babies to climb in and out of the ball pool to support their physical development. Staff recognise toddlers' interests in dolls and provide resources to extend this, supporting their learning through play and keeping children motivated to learn. Staff promote older children's awareness of numbers and colours, through different group activities, which are designed to capture their interest in favourite nursery rhymes. However, the planning of activities is not matched to children's individual next steps in learning, to help them to make good progress in readiness for school. Nonetheless, children's transfer to school is supported as staff meet with teachers and a record of children's development is shared.

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

Staff find out meaningful information from parents when children first start. Flexible settling-in arrangements mean that children develop positive attachments with their key person. Therefore, all children are happy and explore the environment, confident in the care of their familiar person. Children's physical well-being is promoted by the way they are encouraged to participate in active play, including weekly dance sessions. Staff promote children's understanding of healthy lifestyles. For example, they talk to children about the benefits of eating healthy foods, as children eat nutritious meals and snacks. Children develop an understanding of positive hygiene practices as staff provide opportunities for children to carry out their own care routines.

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

While sufficient staff meet the required ratios across the whole of the nursery, they are not deployed effectively in the morning. Therefore, staff are unable to engage the youngest children in activities as they attempt to comfort unsettled children. Self-evaluation is informed by feedback from staff and parents. It is used to identify the strengths of the nursery and any areas to improve. The manager has plans to implement staff appraisal, support and supervision. However, this system has yet to be implemented. Therefore, gaps in staff knowledge and practice have not been identified. Nonetheless, recommendations raised at the previous inspection have been suitably addressed, which demonstrates some capacity to improve. The manager ensures that all staff attend mandatory training and she is committed to increase the qualifications of the staff team. For example, the manager and the deputy manager have obtained a level 6 qualification since the last inspection. This means they understand how children learn. However, the monitoring of staff practice and of the planning of activities is not thorough enough, to ensure that staff are consistently supporting children's learning, to help them to make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	500127
Local authority	Manchester
Inspection number	855469
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	41
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Margaret Hallam
Date of previous inspection	25 October 2011
Telephone number	0161 881 1415

Lighthouse Centre registered in 1991 and is managed by the Lighthouse Christian Centre, through charitable funding. The nursery opens from 8am to 6pm Monday to Thursday and from 8am to 5.30pm on Friday, all year round, except bank holidays and one week at Christmas. There are currently 12 staff, including the manager, who work with the children. All staff hold recognised childcare qualifications. The manager and the deputy manager hold recognised qualifications at level 6. The nursery provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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