

Barn Owl Day Nursery

1117 Oxford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6UT



Inspection date

30 July 2015

Previous inspection date

30 July 2013

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:

- Staff do not all have a secure understanding of what they should do if leaders and managers did not take appropriate action to safeguard children.
- Staff do not consistently obtain written parental permission to administer medication and some medication records are not routinely available for inspection.
- Staff do not always ensure that resources available to babies are suitable for them to access.
- Leaders are not promoting or providing sufficient opportunities for staff's professional development in order to ensure that teaching is consistently good.
- Planned singing activities for toddlers are not always well-organised, resulting in some children becoming disengaged.

It has the following strengths

- Parents are very complimentary about the nursery, the frequency of the communication with staff and the care provided for their children. Most children make good progress.
- Children are successfully developing their independence and self-care. Consequently, children are gaining skills they need to support their transitions, including into school.
- Leaders have a positive attitude to improving the quality of the setting. They seek the views of parents and use information from training to identify the setting's strengths and target areas for improvement.
- The environment is secure, clean, well-maintained and warm. Staff are very welcoming to parents and children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure all staff have a secure understanding of the setting's safeguarding policy, particularly the procedures to follow in the event of management failing to take action about a safeguarding concern
- make sure written parental permission is always obtained to administer medication (both prescription and non-prescription) and that all medication records are available for inspection
- improve the assessment of risks to babies, through staff continually monitoring the environment and ensuring accessible resources are always suitable and age appropriate.

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

- provide staff with sufficient learning opportunities to continuously develop their knowledge and skills so that teaching is consistently good across the nursery
- make sure activities provided for toddlers are consistently stimulating and age appropriate.

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

- keep and retain for a period of two years records of any medication administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, including the date and circumstances and who administered it, including medicine which the child is permitted to self-administer, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carer's consent (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- train all staff on the written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children from abuse or neglect, specifically in the event of management failing to respond to concerns raised (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- keep and retain for a period of two years records of any medication administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, including the date and circumstances and who administered it, including medicine which the child is permitted to self-administer, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carer's consent (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, in all areas of the nursery.
- The inspectors carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the provider and nursery manager and discussed the recruitment procedures and arrangements for staff development.
- The inspectors looked at relevant documentation, such as planning and assessment records.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspectors spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Nikki Whinton / Mandy Mooney

Inspection findings

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

Staff know the children well and respond positively to their differing interests. They offer a varied programme of activities to promote all children's development across the seven areas of learning. Children enjoy their time in the setting and make decisions for themselves as to the resources and activities they wish to explore. Occasionally, some toys accessible to babies are not suitable for them to use. Older children are absorbed identifying and comparing different smells such as potpourri and mint as part of a topic on the senses. They develop their communication and language skills well as they articulate their thoughts, commenting for example, 'it smells like my granny's flowers'. Toddlers develop their coordination skills as they carefully balance across tree stumps in the garden. However, teaching is not yet consistently good. For example, sometimes planned singing activities for toddlers are mundane and too long, resulting in some children becoming restless. Parents are encouraged to share information when children first start in the setting. This is used effectively to guide staffs' assessments of children's starting points. Staff complete regular observations and accurate assessments, which they use to identify children's progress and plan the next steps in their learning. Parents are invited to discuss and contribute to children's assessments, such as through parents' evenings.

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

Children of all ages form positive relationships with staff who care for them each day. Children settle quickly and know the setting's routines. As a result, they develop good levels of confidence and their emotional needs are met well. Children behave well. They are able to take turns and share resources successfully. Staff teach children how to keep themselves safe. For example, they remind them not to run inside or to ride trikes too close to their friends. Children enjoy a varied menu of healthy snacks and freshly prepared cooked meals. Allergies and dietary needs are carefully recorded and accommodated. Consequently, children develop healthy lifestyles whilst at the setting. However, while staff record any medicines given to children, written parental permission to administer medication is not always obtained and medication records are not always available for inspection.

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

The management team has a secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff know what to do if they have a concern about a child or a member of staff. However, some staff are not yet secure on the procedures to follow if management were to fail to follow up on safeguarding concerns. There are suitable recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure the suitability of all staff working with children. Management and staff understand the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have formed links and appropriately share assessments with other early years settings children attend. Management and designated staff liaise effectively with health professionals and outside agencies to ensure that the interests of all children are effectively supported.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY396413
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	1018209
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	67
Name of provider	Paul James Lynch
Date of previous inspection	30 July 2013
Telephone number	01189425555

Barn Owl Day Nursery registered in 2006 and is privately owned. The nursery operates from a former residential house in Tilehurst, Berkshire. The nursery has nine rooms and an enclosed outdoor area. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are 67 children on roll, all of whom are in the early years age group. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery is open five days a week from 7.30am to 6pm all year. There are 16 staff working with the children, of whom 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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