

Inspection date

6 August 2015

Previous inspection date

22 December 2010

| 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:

- The provider has failed to ensure that staff are deployed correctly so that the required qualification ratios are met in each room of the nursery. This results in children not consistently receiving a good quality of teaching and interaction.
- The baby room floor is not cleaned regularly enough to ensure babies have a good standard of hygiene at all times.
- Staff sometimes overlook opportunities to extend children's mathematical skills further.
- Monitoring and evaluation of practice is not effective in ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

It has the following strengths

- Staff form successful partnerships with parents and regularly share children's progress with them. Parents are well informed and appropriately extend their children's learning at home.
- Staff can identify the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and know the appropriate action to take if they have concerns about a child.
- Staff support children's move to school well. They invite teachers to the setting and they regularly talk to the children about what will happen at school. Staff share their assessments of the children with teachers when they move to Reception class.
- Staff are offered regular training to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. The provider encourages staff to complete higher education in childcare and to share their knowledge and skills with each other.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that required ratios are maintained at all times and staff are deployed effectively, so that children are consistently provided with a good level of care and interaction throughout the day
- ensure that all areas the children use consistently promote good hygiene and are appropriate for their good health and well-being at all times.

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

- strengthen interactions with children to further support their mathematical skills by encouraging them to recognise and be interested in shapes in their environment
- develop self-evaluation so it effectively identifies any weaknesses and that the appropriate action is taken to address them.

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

- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the nursery rooms of the three different age groups of children and the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the nursery manager and the provider.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager to evaluate the quality of teaching.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and their written feedback in questionnaires.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery and a range of other documentation, including policies, procedures and risk assessments.

Inspector

Daniella Tyler

Inspection findings

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

Staff get to know children well through regular observations and assessments of their capabilities. They generally plan activities that are tailored to the children's individual needs and interests, and engage children in positive interactions. However, on the day of inspection staff were not deployed effectively in the pre-school room. Children had three rooms to move between so two staff, one of whom is unqualified, had to monitor these rooms. Therefore, they were merely supervising the children rather than providing good quality interactions. Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities well. They liaise with other early years settings and health professionals to provide appropriate support. Staff support children who speak English as an additional language to make sufficient progress in their learning. Children are generally well prepared for the move to school. Staff promote children's learning in mathematics and literacy to a sufficient standard. However, staff do not always make the most of opportunities to extend children's learning in mathematics. They sometimes overlook opportunities to support children to identify shapes in their environment.

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

Children form appropriate caring bonds with their key person, staff and each other. Staff obtain a sufficient range of information from parents about children's care routines and comforts before they start and provide settling-in sessions. Children experience a smooth move from their home to nursery. Staff provide an adequate range of toys and resources for the children. Standards of hygiene in some rooms are better than others. The baby room floor is not always cleaned regularly to ensure that it is suitably hygienic for the babies to crawl on. On the day of inspection there was food and debris from craft activities that had not been cleared away before babies used the floor. Children are provided with healthy home-made meals and snacks. They have daily access to fresh air and exercise in the nursery's well-resourced garden.

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

The provider does not have a good understanding of her responsibility to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. On the day of inspection staff were not deployed correctly in the pre-school room. They were not meeting the required qualification ratios, although enough qualified staff were on the premises. As a result, children were not receiving a good quality of teaching and interaction. Monitoring and evaluation of practice is not effective or robust as it has failed to identify when practice is not meeting legal requirements. The provider has addressed the issue of cleanliness in one area of the nursery that was previously raised as a recommendation. However, she has not ensured that hygiene standards are good for all areas of the nursery at all times. The manager monitors children's progress so any children who need additional support receive it in a timely way. Parents generally comment that they are happy with the care their children receive.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY333651 |
| Local authority | Essex |
| Inspection number | 857039 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Registration category | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Age range of children | 0 - 11 |
| Total number of places | 32 |
| Number of children on roll | 61 |
| Name of provider | ABC Day Nursery (Tiptree) Ltd |
| Date of previous inspection | 22 December 2010 |
| Telephone number | 01621810772 |

Kids & Co. Childcare was registered in 2006 and is run by ABC Day Nursery (Tiptree) Ltd. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff, nine of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday for 51 weeks a year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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Piccadilly Gate
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Manchester
M1 2WD

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