

Pawprints Nursery

Connaught Road, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2RG



Inspection date

31 July 2015

Previous inspection date

29 June 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:

- Some staff are not always vigilant in checking for potential hazards, particularly in the baby room. Therefore, not all staff promote children's safety fully at times. This breach also relates to the associated requirements of the Childcare Register.
- Although staff observe children's learning, they do not always use this information well to identify and plan challenging experiences. In particular, by working with designated professionals to promptly close any gaps in children's learning and help children make continuous progress.
- The quality of teaching is variable at times because the systems for monitoring staff performance are not fully embedded. Therefore, some staff do not always receive support in order to raise standards.
- Staff miss opportunities to make full use of the outdoor area to extend children's learning opportunities, particularly for those children who enjoy being outdoors.

It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy their time at this small friendly nursery. Staff provide some interesting experiences that generally support children's overall development.
- Staff implement a key-person system to help children form close bonds. Therefore, children become confident, independent individuals.
- Staff promote children's good health. Children benefit from freshly prepared and nutritious meals, and are physically active.
- Staff work closely with parents to meet children's needs. They keep parents well informed of their children's progress and provide support to extend learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities in maintaining a safe environment for children, with particular reference to the babies' sleep room
- use information from assessments consistently to plan challenging activities for children and further share this information with professionals to ensure timely support, particularly for children with additional needs

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

- strengthen processes for staff supervision and evaluating the quality of teaching practice in order to help staff fully support children's learning needs
- develop the outdoor play areas to provide a variety of suitable experiences for all children to strengthen their learning potential.

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

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children indoors and during outdoor play, including how staff interacted with children.
- The inspector held discussions with the acting manager and the chairperson of the board of trustees.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the acting manager and discussed arrangements for the supervision of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and from parents' comments in recent nursery questionnaires.
- The inspector sampled documents, including staff supervision notes, children's developmental records, the complaints record and safeguarding procedures.

Inspector

Rachel Edwards

Inspection findings

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

Staff carry out observations and accurately assess children's progress. However, this process is not fully developed as some staff do not always act promptly to address the gaps in children's learning. As a result, not all children make continuous progress. Babies enjoy playful interactions with staff, for example, as they find familiar household items to fill their shopping trolley. Staff cuddle and bounce toddlers as they sing favourite nursery rhymes to help them learn new words and develop their speech. Children are curious and explore their environment; however, staff miss opportunities to provide stimulating activities outdoors at times to fully engage all children. Older children carefully follow instructions to make play dough. They see how the ingredients change, but some staff do not use this opportunity to extend children's learning, particularly by challenging the more able children.

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

Although most staff assess risks in the nursery, some safety checks, particularly in the baby room, are not always thorough. As a result, not all staff are quick to identify and remove some potential hazards. Despite this, children are not put at immediate risk as staff supervise children closely at all times. Staff are sensitive to children's home circumstances. They give extra support at difficult times, such as the arrival of a new baby in the family. Staff praise and encourage children so they quickly gain confidence to try new things. Staff teach children the skills they need to become independent. Toddlers clear away the lunch table, and older children use the toilet and change clothes needing little help. Children behave well as staff gently remind them of behaviour expectations. Children are friendly, kind and learn to play cooperatively. Older children listen attentively and speak confidently in a group. They are gaining skills that prepare them for school.

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

Recently, the nursery has had significant staff changes in the management team, although parents say that children are happy and largely unaffected by the changes. All staff receive safeguarding training and have a secure knowledge of what to do if they have any concerns. However, although there are sufficient arrangements in place for managing staff performance and for accessing training, leaders do not always use the supervision process well to help staff improve the quality of teaching practice. The management team oversees the educational programme to ensure it is broad and balanced. However, despite monitoring children's development, they are not always quick to identify gaps in children's learning. Despite this, leaders have addressed previous recommendations and are making steady progress towards improvement as part of their self-evaluation process.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109976
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	839657
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	47
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Worthy Down Pre School Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	29 June 2010
Telephone number	01962 882574

Pawprints Nursery registered in 1977. It operates near Winchester. The nursery opens 50 weeks of the year, closing for two weeks at Christmas. It is open every weekday from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The provider employs 10 members of staff who work directly with the children, and a nursery chef. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications, including the deputy manager who has an early years degree.

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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