

The Kindergarten

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Church Lane, Northampton, Northamptonshire,
NN1 3NL



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

15 September 2015

27 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not always value the learning that takes place during children's self-initiated play. They tend to rely on adult-led activities to promote children's next steps in learning. Opportunities to harness children's motivation through their own interests are not pursued effectively.
- Children do not always have regular opportunities to develop their large muscle skills.

It has the following strengths

- The management team has made suitable improvements since the last inspection. With support from their local authority advisors, management and staff have satisfactorily implemented actions to drive improvement.
- Staff appraisals have been introduced to support continual professional development and the manager is spending more time mentoring the staff who work directly with the children.
- Secure arrangements are in place to safeguard children. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in identifying child abuse and the reporting procedures they must follow.
- Settling-in procedures ensure children's emotional security. Children who are new to the nursery or less settled are sensitively supported by staff. Parents are also supported by staff as they separate from their children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
■ improve the quality of teaching to ensure everyday opportunities to support children's next steps in learning are maximised, especially during child-initiated play	30/09/2015
■ provide more regular opportunities for children to develop their large muscle skills.	30/09/2015

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector conducted observations of the activities and evaluated the teaching methods with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Hayley Lapworth

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are aware of the signs of abuse and what they would do in the event of a concern about a child in their care. Checks are completed on all staff to ensure they are suitable to work with children. Induction procedures for staff and students ensure they are familiar with the setting's policies and procedures. The manager is monitoring the educational programmes and specifically the staff's teaching skills. Training has been identified for some staff to support them in working with two-year-olds, to improve the children's experiences. Parents are very complimentary about the care the staff provide.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff have a sound understanding of the children's individual needs. Staff observe the children as they play and use these observations to assess what children need to do next in order to progress. Staff are aware of the children's current interests. However, staff do not always successfully weave the children's next steps in their learning into their self-initiated play. Children enjoy playing with balls and running in large open spaces. However, opportunities to develop their large muscle skills are less frequent. Children sit in groups and sing with their peers. They have fun singing about a bubble. Through actions, they demonstrate a bubble growing by widening their hands. Children have opportunities to recreate their experiences from home. For example, the role-play area is made into an ice-cream parlour. There is regular communication between the staff and the children's parents. This ensures a consistent approach in their education and care.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The children share warm relationships with staff they are familiar with. Children who need additional support to settle are comforted by staff. Babies can readily access their carers and often do so for a cuddle. They show they feel secure and content as they drift off to sleep in their carer's arms. Most children access the outdoors every day and have opportunities to be physically active in the large indoor hall. Children's nutritional needs are suitably met. Meals are provided that the children enjoy. Children are beginning to learn good handwashing techniques as staff remind them to 'rub, rub, rub' their hands together under running water. Daily checks are made to ensure the environment is safe and sleeping babies are successfully visually monitored by staff. Partnership working with other professionals is established. School Reception teachers are invited to meet the children in the nursery environment.

Outcomes for children require improvement

All children are making satisfactory progress and most are comfortably working within their age range. Children have some opportunities to learn how to become independent and attend to their personal needs. Older children are beginning to acquire good skills to support their start at school. They are developing skills in mathematics, such as counting and problem solving.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY248015
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1013833
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	53
Number of children on roll	40
Name of provider	Jodi Donnell
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2015
Telephone number	01604 631033

The Kindergarten was registered in 2002. There are 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 3. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The setting supports disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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