

Noahs Ark Day Nursery & Kids Club



Noahs Ark Day Nursery, Vaughans Lane, Great Boughton, Chester, CH3 5XF

Inspection date	24 September 2015
Previous inspection date	3 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider did not notify Ofsted or the local authority safeguarding team of a safeguarding concern that occurred in 2010 relating to a member of staff previously employed at the nursery.
- The provider does not always recognise when there are hazards in the children's out-of-school area on the first floor.
- The provider has not fully considered all opportunities for helping children to work towards the next steps in their learning.

It has the following strengths

- There is an effective, structured approach to monitoring children's development that can be applied to the whole group, key groups or individual children. Consequently, children's stages of development are easily determined and regularly shared with parents or any other professionals involved. All children make good progress including disabled children and those who have special educational needs.
- Each key person provides warm and loving care and responds sensitively to children's communications. This helps children to form secure emotional attachments and promotes their sense of security and belonging.
- The outdoor play area is well organised and resourced and encourages play across all areas of children's learning. It offers children a sense of adventure and the opportunity to experience challenges and manage risks for themselves. Children climb on the wobbly, wooden bridge, balance on the swinging beam and confidently use the swing.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
■ ensure that risk assessments are regularly and thoroughly conducted, taking all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children	24/10/2015
■ inform Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of any person caring for children on the premises, such as any offences or orders that may disqualify them.	01/10/2015

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

- help children to achieve the next steps in their learning more quickly by putting a greater focus on what they need to learn next.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors looked at children's assessment records and the planning documentation.
- One of the inspectors completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the nursery owner and manager. They looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery and out-of-school club's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents and children spoken to on the day of inspection and from information included in the nursery and out-of-school club's own parent survey.

Inspector

Linda Yates / Mary Henderson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The provider does not fully understand their responsibility to make sure that all the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements are met. Consequently, the arrangements for safeguarding are ineffective. The provider does not always identify all possible risks to children in the children's out-of-school area on the first floor. This is because they have not fully considered the risks to children from the unlocked windows. The provider has failed to notify Ofsted or the local authority safeguarding team of an allegation of abuse made against a previous member of staff several years ago. However, all present staff have undertaken safeguarding training and fully understand their role in safeguarding children. Additionally, there is an effective child protection policy in place. Staff's practice is monitored and any training needs identified so that children make good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager holds Early Years Professional status which has given her a thorough understanding of how children learn and develop. As a result, she ensures the environment encourages children to develop curiosity and the ability to explore using all of their senses. Babies crawl into the black tent and enjoy sensory experiences, such as the twinkling lights. They explore the sand with all of their bodies as they crawl in and out of the sand tray. Toddlers explore cornflour with their fingers. This helps to develop the physical skills of dexterity and coordination needed for writing. Staff skilfully extend the activity by adding paint to change the colour of the cornflour, in order to maintain children's interest and engagement. The well-qualified and experienced staff use a range of effective teaching strategies in their interactions with the children. For instance, to promote younger children's communication development, they use clear commentary to describe what is happening. Staff skilfully use open-ended questions that require older children to give fuller answers and to use a wider range of vocabulary. Staff promote children's understanding of the world well. One of the ways they do this is by encouraging pre-school children to explore the mud and water. They run the mud through their fingers, scoop mud from containers and create mud pies. The daily routine generally supports children's learning well. At times, however, staff do not focus enough on teaching children what they need to learn next. As a result, children do not always achieve the next steps in their learning as quickly as possible.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Weaknesses in the leadership and management of the setting do not protect children's welfare. Strategies for managing children's behaviour include positive reinforcement, in order to promote their self-esteem. Children have long periods of free-flow play throughout the day, encouraging them to be physically active. Meals and snacks provided for the children are very nutritious and balanced. Children's independence skills are promoted well, particularly during mealtimes. For example, the older children serve themselves at lunchtime.

Outcomes for children are good

Children's literacy skills are promoted well. They explore the sounds in words as they hear them throughout the course of the day's activities. For example, staff write the words children are using in their play on the blackboard by the outdoor mud kitchen. Staff support children well, so that they develop the skills they need in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364920
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	863826
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	142
Number of children on roll	207
Name of provider	Marc Haydn Owen
Date of previous inspection	3 August 2009
Telephone number	01244 343247

Noahs Ark Day Nursery & Kids Club was registered by the current private owner in 2007. It is situated in the grounds of Bishops High School, Great Boughton, Chester. The nursery and out-of-school club employs 35 members of childcare staff. Of these 33 hold appropriate qualifications. Three hold a qualification at level 6, two at level 4, 24 at level 3 and two at level 2. Additionally, one staff member has Early Years Teacher Status and another has Early Years Professional status. The nursery and out-of-school club open from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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