

Little Steps Neighbourhood Nursery

Lister Drive, Liverpool, L13 7HH



Inspection date	11 November 2015
Previous inspection date	19 August 2013

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of significant changes to the setting, including changes to the management committee. This is an offence under the Early Years Register and a breach of the Childcare Register requirements.
- Staff do not always use opportunities to effectively extend and challenge children's thinking and learning.
- Information relating to children's progress and development is not always consistently shared with parents. This means opportunities for parents to contribute to learning and share information from home are missed.

It has the following strengths

- The provider and manager display a commitment to making ongoing improvements to the provision. They have worked to address all recommendations set during the last inspection.
- Staff complete regular and accurate assessments of children's learning and development. They use this information to identify gaps in children's learning. They collect information when children first start to help identify what they can already do.
- Children have established positive relationships with staff. They are supported well during settling-in periods and when moving into different rooms. This helps to develop their confidence and supports their emotional well-being.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

Due Date

- ensure that Ofsted are provided with the necessary information to enable them to carry out suitability checks for members of the childcare committee in a timely manner. 08/01/2016

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

- develop staff's questioning skills and provide more opportunities for children to be sufficiently challenged during activities
- ensure all parents have the opportunity to contribute to children's learning and development records and share information from home, in order to maximise learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Nadine McCarthy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of changes to the childcare committee and the nursery manager as required. However, recruitment and induction procedures are robust and the provider has attended training to support her knowledge of safer recruitment. The new manager has systems in place to monitor the quality of teaching and staff's practice. She reviews their performance and interactions and completes regular supervisions. This is beginning to have a positive impact on the quality of teaching. The manager and provider have systems in place to evaluate and review the quality of the provision and have identified priorities for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff use observations and assessments to identify next steps for individual children and to plan activities that support their learning. They share information from assessments with the early years professional. This helps to identify groups of children that are making less progress in their learning. Staff include children in focused communication groups and activities and this helps to support their developing language skills. The quality of teaching varies across different staff members and some are more effective than others at extending children's thinking and learning. Staff sit and play alongside children during activities and engage in conversations. Younger children have opportunities to investigate and explore as staff provide a range of creative and messy experiences for them to enjoy. Children develop an awareness of different faiths and cultures through planned activities and discussions. Staff also provide opportunities for children to develop their mathematical skills and counting through routines and activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Children have daily opportunities to access the outdoor area. This helps to support their physical development and promotes their health. Children are encouraged to develop their independence and self-help skills. They have opportunities to prepare and serve their own food and follow good hygiene routines. Children have established close relationships with their key person. Staff collect information about children's individual needs and interests before starting and this helps to support their care needs. However, the provider has not informed Ofsted of significant changes to the management committee. This has the potential to have a significant impact on the safety and welfare of the children attending. Staff provide information to parents about children's progress and next steps in learning. However, this is inconsistent between rooms, meaning parents are not always fully informed about their child's development.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are happy and enjoy their time spent at the setting. They make steady progress in their learning in relation to their starting points. Additional funding is used to provide considered opportunities for children's learning and to develop the skills of staff. Children are acquiring some of the skills required for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY289844
Local authority	Liverpool
Inspection number	1028585
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	93
Name of provider	Lister Steps Limited
Date of previous inspection	19 August 2013
Telephone number	0151 254 1394

Little Steps Neighbourhood Nursery was registered in 2004. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 4, 10 at level 3, two at level 2 and one holds Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens 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.

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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