

Pathways Nursery and Out of School Club

Parc Eglos School, Parc Eglos, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 8UP



Inspection date

8 December 2015

Previous inspection date

19 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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:

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of a significant event. However, there was no impact on children's welfare as staff responded appropriately to the children's needs.
- Staff do not always ensure children's personal details remain confidential.
- Staff do not rigorously promote children's understanding of safety.
- Although the provider ensures they meet the adult-to-child ratios, they do not always ensure staff deploy themselves well to fully support children's learning.
- Self-evaluation lacks robustness to monitor all aspects of the provision and the effectiveness of risk assessment.
- Parents receive information about children's activities. However, they do not have many opportunities to view their children's development records and update themselves fully with their progression.

It has the following strengths

- The nursery is well equipped to provide a variety of play experiences to promote children's learning and development, and respond to their interests.
- Staff work well in partnership with other professionals to support children's individual needs and development.
- Staff manage behaviour in a positive way and children respond well. Children are cooperative and readily participate in activities.

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 help children understand more about potential hazards and staying safe	02/02/2016
■ ensure all information relating to individual children is held confidentially	02/02/2016
■ improve knowledge and understanding of management's responsibility relating to the notification of significant events.	02/02/2016

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

- develop more robust self-evaluation procedures to fully monitor all aspects of the provision and the thoroughness of risk assessments
- review staff deployment so they provide better support and extend children's learning more consistently
- increase opportunities to share children's development more frequently with parents.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, parents and the Early Years Teacher.
- The inspector observed staff and children in their indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector sampled children's development records.
- The inspector took account of the nursery's self-evaluation and quality improvement reports.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector
Julie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Overall, the provider has taken appropriate steps to address actions and recommendations from the last inspection, working closely with support agencies. New doors and key pads have improved security for children. Increased links with other settings enable staff to provide better continuity for children. The provider has informed Ofsted of changes to the manager. However, the provider does not have a sufficient understanding of other events they need to report to Ofsted. This means they did not notify Ofsted about a significant event. There are suitable arrangements to check that only authorised persons collect children. However, at inspection, a specified password was on view and not confidential, reducing the robustness of the system. The provider supports staff's professional development, so they attend relevant training and evaluate their learning to help develop their practice. However, the provider is not always successful in identifying weaknesses in the provision. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection procedures, which helps them to protect children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff demonstrate a clear awareness of each child's stage of development. They observe children and use appropriate systems to monitor progress. Staff identify any gaps in children's learning and seek additional support. Children enjoy their play and use equipment with competence. For example, older children use scissors and glue sticks to create a picture. Younger children investigate a variety of sensory and creative play materials with interest. There is a balance of free-play and focused activities, which helps staff to set appropriate challenges for children and promote learning. However, staff are not always deployed effectively and miss opportunities to consistently extend children's learning further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff implement suitable settling-in procedures to help children to feel secure when they first attend. Children understand the daily routines and are keen to help. Staff encourage conversations, supporting children's social skills and language development well. They provide resources to promote children's physical skills, but do not always consider safety. For example, children use bottles to squirt coloured water through nozzles. However, the bottles still have original labels that show a household cleaning product, which does not teach children that they are not safe to play with.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Overall, children show increasing levels of independence and concentration. They enjoy their activities and develop some skills in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY374794
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	1007836
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	68
Name of provider	Parc Eglos School Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	19 February 2015
Telephone number	01326 555235

Pathways Nursery registered in 2001. The nursery operates from Parc Eglos School, close to the centre of Helston, in Cornwall. The nursery opens from 8.45am until 3.15pm, during term time only. There are 15 members of staff, 14 of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 3. An Early Years Teacher works in the nursery on two mornings per week. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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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