

Willows Private Day Nursery (The)

23 Park Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SG



Inspection date

17 December 2015

Previous inspection date

26 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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:

- Management systems are not fully robust. There are inconsistencies in the procedures for safeguarding children, which does not fully promote children's safety and welfare.
- The monitoring of staff's practice and children's progress is not strong enough. This means the quality of teaching and learning is not yet consistently good.
- Care practices at mealtimes are not organised well enough. Consequently, staff are not always effective in supporting the children at these times and meeting their needs.

It has the following strengths

- Relationships between staff, children and parents are strong which contribute to children's well-being. Children show they feel happy and secure in the nursery.
- Staff teach children their golden rules for good behaviour which promote children's choice, using good manners and looking after belongings.
- Staff work well with parents to involve them in their children's learning. They provide parents with a good level of information about their children's ongoing progress. Parents speak positively about the nursery and the staff.

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

- update the safeguarding policy in line with guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children Board and train all staff to thoroughly understand the procedures. 31/12/2015

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

- implement robust systems for monitoring staff's practice and children's ongoing progress, so that teaching and learning are consistently good
- improve the organisation of mealtimes so that staff support and fully meet children's needs at this time.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the provider'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

Jan Linsdell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Management procedures are not rigorous enough to ensure the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements are fully met. The manager is new to the role and she is still reviewing and developing a number of processes. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Risk assessments are implemented well. The premises are safe and children are supervised well. However, the safeguarding policy is not currently up to date and some staff have not been trained to ensure that they have the most secure understanding of all of the procedures for safeguarding children. Monitoring systems are not robust enough to help improve teaching and learning. For example, staff supervision is in the early stages and the manager does not routinely check staff's assessments of the children's progress. This leads to inconsistencies in the quality of information about children's learning and how this is used to teach children. Some self-evaluation takes place and the manager has a development plan to help her tackle areas for improvement. Most of the staff are well qualified and they attend training to improve their skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff interact with the children to support and guide their learning. In the main, staff conduct accurate assessments of the children's skills and use the information to help children move forward. Children are motivated to learn. They are confident to sound out the letters of their name at registration. They particularly enjoy energetic games outside and creative activities in the messy-play room. Children learn to respect each other's differences and develop their awareness of diversity. Disabled children and those who have special educational needs benefit from one-to-one support. Staff work effectively with parents and other professionals to meet children's needs. They make sure children feel included and help them to make steady progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Due to weaknesses in leadership and management, children's safety and welfare are not fully assured. Staff are caring, friendly and provide strong levels of emotional support to the children. They promote positive behaviour and remind older children to set a good example to the younger children. The basement has designated space for children to participate in physical activities. This is useful because it means, during bad weather, children still enjoy active play indoors. Pre-school children are offered swimming lessons which promote their fitness. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence. Meals provided are healthy, nutritious and freshly prepared. However, care practices at mealtimes are not organised well enough to fully promote children's welfare. Staff spend too much time doing tasks which means they have less time to support children's needs.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Generally, children develop some of the skills they need to support their future learning, including their eventual move to school. Most make typical progress expected for their age, given their starting points. However, the monitoring of teaching and assessment requires improvement, so that children are helped to make good, or better, progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206245
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	865402
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Mr Kyran Connolly & Mrs Helen Connolly Partnership
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2011
Telephone number	01298 79287

Willows Private Day Nursery (The) was registered in 1997. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports disabled children and those who have special educational needs.

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