

Inspection date

4 February 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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:

- Some staff are not clear about what children are learning during focused activities. They sometimes miss opportunities to challenge children's understanding and model learning through play.
- The daily record of children being cared for is disorganised and incomplete.
- Self-evaluation does not always identify weaknesses accurately enough to ensure that swift action can be taken to drive forward improvements.

It has the following strengths

- The manager has suitable procedures in place to monitor children's progress. Gaps in their development are identified and interventions put in place to help children develop.
- Links with outside professionals are secure and contribute to a coordinated approach to meeting children's individual care and learning needs.
- Children have warm and trusting relationships with staff and generally feel confident in the nursery.

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 by ensuring that all staff interact purposefully with children to extend and enhance their learning and engagement during activities	27/05/2016
■ ensure there is a daily record of children being cared for on the premises.	25/03/2016

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

- develop a more rigorous approach to self-evaluation to inform action plans that are accurately targeted to bring about swift improvements at the nursery.

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. 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 number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The manager works alongside staff and has appropriate supervision arrangements to support them in their work. Staff undertake professional development opportunities, such as training or cluster meetings, to enhance their skills. This has been effective in helping them gain knowledge of children's special educational needs and disabilities. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know how to identify and report their concerns and carry out routine procedures to keep children safe in the setting. Required documentation is generally in place, although not well organised. Registers of children's attendance were found not to be complete on two occasions, including the day of inspection. The manager asks parents for feedback about their experiences of the nursery and is reflective about the provision. However, the self-evaluation procedure has yet to be embedded in practice to inform stringent action plans for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Teaching is variable and at times children's learning is not effectively enhanced. For example, during a focused activity to introduce children to mathematical concepts, some staff miss opportunities to promote children's knowledge of shape, size and capacity. Equally, during music activities older children's interest is not always sustained. This is partly due to a lack of challenge offered but also due to some supporting staff's lack of encouragement during singing and instrument playing. Children's engagement is improved when they choose their own playthings. They develop ideas as they play with small-world toys and are generally able to communicate these to staff. Staff observe children in play and track their progress satisfactorily. Next steps in learning are identified and for older children, these focus on the skills needed for their moves to school. Parents are informed of children's development and encouraged to continue children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Generally children are well cared for and enjoy warm relationships with staff. Children learn to share and take turns, and behave appropriately for their age and stage of development. Staff offer support when necessary, recognising that at times young children need cuddles and reassurance. Healthy snacks are shared and outside play is organised regularly. Resources are of suitable quality and enhance children's development appropriately.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children learn to be independent in their self-care needs and are able to follow their own interests as they play. However, the variable teaching demonstrated means that children make adequate, rather than good progress at nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY475526
Local authority	Peterborough
Inspection number	984829
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 - 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	Kim McCarthy
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01733685454

Little Blossoms was registered in 2014. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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