

Birchwood Private Day Nursery

Wellington Road, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4BH



Inspection date

16 February 2016

Previous inspection date

18 July 2013

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

- Planning and assessment are not monitored rigorously enough to ensure all staff have an accurate understanding of children's skills, abilities and progress.
- The next steps identified for children's learning are not always sharply focused enough to support children's good progress.
- Staff do not find out enough from parents about what children already know and can do when they start. They are not able to assess precisely enough the starting points for children's learning.
- The manager does not evaluate the quality of the provision effectively enough to identify key areas for development and establish a robust plan to drive improvements.
- At times the environment is too noisy to enable younger children to listen carefully and concentrate on what they are doing.

It has the following strengths

- The nursery is bright, child friendly and welcoming. Children enjoy an attractive and well-resourced learning environment, offering opportunities to explore the natural world and engage in energetic play.
- The manager and staff understand the importance of promoting children's safety. They follow clear procedures to assess and minimise risks, enabling children to explore and learn about taking risks in safe surroundings.
- Staff are consistent in how they manage children's behaviour. Children learn how to behave appropriately and play well alongside their friends.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that observations and assessment are focused on identifying children's precise next steps 	01/05/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ monitor planning rigorously so that all children are effectively supported and challenged to make the best possible progress given their age, abilities and starting points 	01/05/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ use information from parents about children's achievements more effectively and establish more accurate starting points for children's learning. 	01/06/2016

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

- rigorously review all aspects of the provision and take prompt action to address key weaknesses and drive improvement
- manage the environment more effectively and help children to remain interested and to concentrate on their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting and observed activities in the main play areas and the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journey records, the planning and assessment documentation and a range of written policy documents.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation and improvement plan.
- The inspector took into account the spoken and written views of parents.

Inspector

Jacqueline Coomer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Robust recruitment and induction procedures help to ensure that staff are suitable. The detailed policies and procedures in place underpin their work appropriately. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know how to keep children safe in the event of a child protection concern. Effective partnerships with other settings that children attend help staff to maintain continuity in children's learning. Staff are deployed well in each area of the setting, including outside, so that children are safe and appropriately supervised. However, the manager has not established a fully effective system of self-evaluation to ensure that key areas of practice are reviewed on a regular basis.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Children participate mostly in freely chosen learning experiences and have opportunities to extend their knowledge through adult-led, planned activities. Children enthusiastically join in songs and rhymes at circle time. Staff promote children's literacy skills successfully through storytelling. Children recall stories and events and engage in activities that help them to link letters to sounds. Children use their imagination as they pretend to be caterpillars and investigate what to eat and how to move. Staff observe and assess children's progress regularly. However, they do not identify children's next steps in learning precisely enough. This means that the activities they plan do not offer the challenge children need to help them to make consistently good progress in their learning. Staff speak to parents about what children already know and can do when they first join the nursery. However, they do not use the information parents can share well enough in their assessments of the starting points for each child's learning. Consequently, their assessments are not as accurate as possible and staff cannot plan highly effectively for children's ongoing progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff create a warm and nurturing environment for children. They praise children's efforts and promote their confidence and self-esteem. There are appropriate arrangements in place to help children to make a seamless move between groups. However, weaknesses in the assessment and planning arrangements mean that children do not make as much progress in their development as they could. Children do demonstrate some sense of responsibility for their environment. They help to tidy away the toys and activities that they have been playing with and happily play alongside each other. They are developing some understanding of how to share, wait and take turns. Staff teach children about leading healthy lifestyles and children enjoy healthy meals and snacks. They provide opportunities for children to develop their physical skills.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are not making consistently good progress in their learning and development. This is because teaching is not based on a clear knowledge and understanding of each child's needs. However, they do gain some of the key skills they will need to support them in their future learning. They are becoming increasingly independent and have a growing sense of responsibility.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345515
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1028831
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 - 9
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Amanda Jane Marchese
Date of previous inspection	18 July 2013
Telephone number	01782296746

Birchwood Private Day Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications between level 3 and 5. 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.

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