

Inspection date	19 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:

- The provider has failed to meet her legal responsibilities to ensure that adult-to-child ratios and the deployment of qualified staff is organised to meet minimum legal requirements at all times. This has the potential to compromise the quality of children's care and learning.
- On occasions, the teaching for children aged two years is not particularly suited to their needs. Some adult-led activities do not fully engage the children. Staff do not question children skilfully enough or quickly change tasks to fully capture their attention and purposefully extend their learning.
- The organisation of the outdoor provision is still in its infancy and is yet to offer extensive opportunities for children to learn by doing things in different ways.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are warm and caring in their nature; their welcoming dispositions help children to establish bonds quickly. Children of all ages are happy and confident, helping promote their emotional well-being.
- Partnerships with parents are firmly established. Displays, daily discussions and the electronic systems are ways that information is effectively shared.
- Staff are adept at supporting young children's behaviour. They talk to children in a polite and gentle manner which models good behaviour. Simple explanations help children gain an understanding about how they may accidentally hurt each other as they play.
- The interesting and well-planned playrooms provide children with lots to touch and test; helping ignite their curiosity, tempting them to be inquisitive and develop skills which help them to be active learners.

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 adult-to-child ratios and deployment of qualified staff comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage at all times 	19/02/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ support the staff to improve planning, timing and organisation of activities, ensuring that learning needs of children aged two years are effectively met and all children benefit from high-quality teaching and interactions with staff. 	19/04/2016

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

- provide children with more extensive experiences outdoors, allowing them to practise what they know and try things in different ways or on a larger scale.

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information received about this provider.
- The inspector viewed activities in both of the playrooms and the outdoor play area. He observed teaching and interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. He also took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the owner/manager and discussed self-evaluation arrangements and plans for future improvement.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the owner/manager.
- The inspector looked at children's registration records and planning documentation. He checked the evidence of the qualifications and suitability of staff working in the nursery and also looked at other documentation.
- The inspector checked the arrangements for the deployment of staff, including those trained in first aid.

Inspector

Frank Kelly

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

For a very short time during the inspection, there were too many children and not enough adults present to meet the legal requirements. At this time, children remained safe and there was no impact on their care. On similar occasions, there are sufficient adults to care for the children, although they do not always have the necessary balance of qualifications to meet the requirements. Ofsted accepts the provider's reasons for this occurring and she demonstrates that she understands the actions to be taken to put things right. Despite this, children's safety is promoted. The premises and equipment are maintained in a good condition and kept secure. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children are supervised by suitably vetted staff who are familiar with the child protection procedures. The owner communicates her vision for a quality service and a staff performance programme has been introduced to develop skills and improve teaching. This is still in its early stages as some staff have only recently started. Systems for identifying gaps in children's learning and the curriculum are in place.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff have a variety of qualifications and experience. The playrooms provide children with a sufficiently broad range of experiences to cover all areas of learning. Overall, staff's planning and assessing for children's progress is providing a secure foundation for identifying children's next stages of learning. This helps children make sound progress. However, the quality of teaching is not strong enough, particularly for the children aged two years. Staff do not always organise their activities and routines well to engage children in purposeful learning. They try to read stories when there are too many distractions; asking questions but not allowing children sufficient response time before providing the answer. This limits opportunities for children to develop listening, speaking and concentration skills. Nevertheless, during children's self-chosen play, they play happily alongside each other in the sand and in the role-play area. Children paint and use glue to create pictures. In the baby room, staff are adept at encouraging children's language and exploration. Babies are becoming curious and confident and test what things do. Staff use photographs of the children's families to encourage them to talk. Staff spontaneously sing songs and introduce the rhythms of counting when children build with blocks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Inconsistent staffing arrangements is resulting in children's welfare being potentially compromised. Nevertheless, staff have created a welcoming environment in which parents and children feel at ease. Children explore some outdoor opportunities which are available to them. They enjoy balancing along the crates, messy play in the mud kitchen and calling to adults to play chase. Staff encourage children to do things for themselves, including removing their coats and boots. They praise children's efforts to help boost self-esteem.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Overall, all children make steady progress. Toddlers are developing confidence and self-help skills, and babies are well-supported to develop their social and communication skills. This helps to prepare them soundly for their next stages of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY488414
Local authority	Sefton
Inspection number	1039710
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	The Wendy House (Wirral) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0151 378 1314

Wendy House was registered in 2015. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, one has Qualified Teacher Status, two have an early years degree and two have an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery opens from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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