

Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd

Longsands Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 9PS



Inspection date

21 March 2016

Previous inspection date

29 September 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Inadequate	4

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Staff deployment is not effective in meeting babies' individual care needs. This impacts on their emotional well-being.
- Not all staff have sufficient understanding of the signs and indicators of child abuse. As a result, children are not well protected from harm.
- Risk assessments are ineffective and do not make sure that the risks to children are removed or minimised.
- Staff's knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage is poor. As a result, the quality of teaching is weak and does not support children to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Assessments and observations of children's progress are not regularly completed which means that staff are unable to identify and plan the next steps in children's learning.
- Staff do not manage children's behaviour well enough to ensure that children show mutual respect and tolerance towards each other.
- Parents are given too few opportunities to contribute to their children's learning. As a result, there is not a joint approach to children's development.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are kind and caring towards the children and give them frequent praise. This promotes children's self-esteem.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action

We intend to take steps to cancel registration and will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due Date
■ review staffing arrangements to ensure staff deployment meets children's individual needs, especially in relation to the key-person system	08/04/2016
■ improve staff's knowledge and understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, to help to keep children safe and protected	08/04/2016
■ complete an effective risk assessment and take appropriate action to reduce risks to children.	08/04/2016

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

	Due Date
■ ensure that daily routines for babies are flexible enough to meet their individual needs	08/04/2016
■ ensure that staff are familiar with how to manage children's behaviour to ensure that children show mutual respect and tolerance towards each other	08/04/2016
■ develop staff's knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage to help them to improve the quality of teaching to ensure children are making the best possible progress in their learning	08/04/2016
■ ensure assessments of children's progress are regularly completed, that the next steps in their development are identified, to help them to make good progress in their learning and development to support their readiness for school	08/04/2016
■ improve the educational programme to promote children's understanding of people, communities and the wider world	08/04/2016
■ make full use of parents' knowledge of their children within assessments and planning for teaching.	08/04/2016

Inspection activities

- The inspectors' carried out two joint observations of planned creative activities.
- The inspectors' interviewed staff working with the children and the manager of the nursery school.
- The inspectors' looked at staff's assessments, observations and activity plans for children.
- The inspectors' observed staff and children's learning in each of the playrooms and the outdoor area.
- The inspectors' took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Sarah Dimsdale/Stephanie Nixon

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. This is because not all staff demonstrate a suitable awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. Staff are adequately qualified and have attended recent training in the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, this is not yet improving the quality of their work with children. Leaders and managers have a poor understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage which has resulted in breaches to the legal requirements of the statutory framework. The manager completes all the planning for the nursery school and has begun to track groups of children and the progress they are making. However, systems in place to assess children's progress in the base rooms are very poor and this has resulted in the inaccurate assessment of children's learning and development. The nursery school has a clear equality and diversity policy. However, despite this, children have limited opportunities and resources that support children to learn about different people, places and cultures. While leaders and managers are aware of the need to improve, too little has been done to ensure that the nursery school meets the needs of children that attend. This impacts negatively on outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Staff have a poor understanding of what learning opportunities to provide for young children. The quality of teaching is too variable which means that children do not make good progress in readiness for school. Assessments of what children know and can do are weak. Although parents receive regular newsletters and have opportunities to attend parents evenings, they are not encouraged to contribute to their children's learning at nursery.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Arrangements for staff to work with children and to provide all individuals with a special, key person do not meet babies' needs well. This is further hindered by inflexible daily routines. This does not support children's emotional well-being. The nursery environment is suitable and there are adequate resources that children can independently access. However, risk assessments of resources and equipment are ineffective and do not help minimise the risks to children. Children are not learning about how to behave towards others because staff do not correct their behaviour when they do something wrong. This does not support children's personal, social and emotional development or their understanding of rules and boundaries. The food menus have recently been revised to be healthier and children have plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. This supports children's understanding of how to lead healthy lifestyles. Children attend the nursery regularly and their attendance is monitored by staff. Children are supported to feel safe by staff providing gentle reminders for example, about the safe use of scissors. Nevertheless, the lack of guidance provided by staff when children misbehave does not support children to feel safe all of the time. Children develop some independence skills such as using the bathroom and washing their hands independently.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Outcomes for children attending the nursery are poor. Not all children are making typical progress for their age and some children are falling behind. Staff are implementing some activities to improve children's communication. However, weak systems for assessing children's progress do not help staff to identify quickly which children require additional support.

Setting details

Unique reference number	503755
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	1040600
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 - 17
Total number of places	99
Number of children on roll	57
Name of provider	Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	29 September 2015
Telephone number	01772 798 034

Silver Birches Nursery School Ltd was registered in 2001 and is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. It operates from a large, detached property situated in the Fulwood area of Preston. The nursery school is privately owned and managed. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff, of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 57 children on roll all of whom are in the early years age group.

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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