

Gamlingay Day Nursery

Gamlingay Community Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, SG19 3JR



Inspection date

25 October 2016

Previous inspection date

18 September 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of significant events. Information records relating to the investigations carried out following complaints are not available for inspection.
- The manager is not fully informed about the previous practice of her staff. Therefore, she is unable to implement appropriate levels of supervision to safeguard children and promote their interests.
- Staff sometimes do not use the information gained from assessments of children's learning effectively. Therefore, they do not consistently identify where children can be challenged further or find out where they require additional support.
- Staff do not complete the required progress check for children aged between two and three years, in order to provide parents with a short, written summary of children's development in the prime areas of learning.
- The strategies staff use to inform parents about children's next steps in learning and how they can further extend children's learning at home are not always successful.
- Although there are plentiful opportunities for play and activities outside, some aspects of the outdoor provision are less inviting for girls who prefer to learn outdoors.

It has the following strengths

- Children develop caring relationships with staff and other children. They eagerly run to cuddle staff as they return to the room and enjoy many opportunities to talk to friends.
- Children engage in regular physical activity and take measured risks in their play. Outdoors, young boys move at speed on two-wheeled bikes and successfully negotiate space as they weave in-between cones. Indoors, all children energetically hop like bunnies and jump high to catch bubbles during an activity.

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
■ ensure all records relating to the investigation of a complaint are available for Ofsted	26/11/2016
■ provide appropriate levels of supervision to each member of staff who has contact with children, so that they receive support and coaching to safeguard children and promote their interests	26/11/2016
■ ensure the information gained from assessments of children's learning is used consistently, to understand their levels of achievement, inform planning and challenge them to make good progress in all areas of learning	26/11/2016
■ complete the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years and provide parents with a short, written summary of their child's development in the prime areas of learning.	26/11/2016

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

- explore further ways to inform parents about children's next steps in learning and help them to extend children's learning at home
- enhance the experiences for girls who choose to spend time outside, so that all aspects of the outdoor provision are stimulating, enjoyable and capture their interest and curiosity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke to children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager, held discussions with members of staff and had a telephone conversation with the provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager, co-manager, early years support worker and the providers representative. She looked at relevant documentation, including staff files, children's learning records and registers.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussions on the day, reviews taken from the nursery website and thank you cards.
- The inspector saw some documentation in relation to the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

Inspector

Rachel Pepper

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. The records of information relating to complaints of a safeguarding nature that raised concerns about staff practice are not available. Furthermore, the provider has not informed the manager about the concerns regarding the previous practice of staff. Therefore, she is unable to implement effective arrangements for supervision. She is not aware of staff disciplinary records, so she is not able to monitor their practice appropriately. This does not ensure children are kept safe and that staff follow the expectations of the nursery's detailed policy and practice. In addition, the provider has not notified Ofsted of incidents of a safeguarding nature. The current staff team regularly refreshes their knowledge of child protection issues. They have a suitable understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child at risk of harm. The manager receives some help from an early years support worker to reflect on and make some improvements to her practice. However, the provider has not ensured that all legal requirements are met. Staff work with the other settings children attend to help to promote their continuity of care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Unqualified staff do not consistently use the information they gain from children's assessments to accurately track their progress or prioritise areas for development. However, staff routinely observe children and on some occasions identify appropriate next steps in their learning. In recent weeks they have begun to refer to approved childcare guidance and, through training provided, are beginning to develop their knowledge of how to promote children's learning and offer age-appropriate activities. The required progress check for children aged between two and three years is not currently completed and shared with parents. Nevertheless, the manager is able to recognise children who may need intervention to help them to catch up. Despite these weaknesses, some aspects of teaching are good. Staff note the interests of children and provide resources related to these. They provide support during planned activities to enable all children to join in. Older children attending during the holidays benefit from a well-planned activity programme. They use their imagination to create dens and enjoy a range of creative activities in line with current themes. They have regular access to fresh air and exercise. For example, they take part in scavenger hunts and bowl with pumpkins.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Children's safety and well-being are compromised due to the weaknesses in leadership and management. However, children clearly enjoy their time at the nursery. They are clear on expectations of behaviour and praised for using good manners. Some aspects of the key-person system are effective. Children develop secure attachments and their independence is promoted. However, staff do not always inform parents about children's next steps in learning or how to extend children's learning at home. The indoor space has been organised well to stimulate children's interest and engagement in a range of activities. Resources are not used as well to capture the interest of the girls who choose to play outdoors. Children enjoy a range of freshly prepared food that helps to promote their healthy lifestyle.

Outcomes for children require improvement

The weaknesses in the staff's use of assessments mean that children are not yet making good enough progress. Children acquire some of the skills that they need for future learning and for starting school. They are motivated to learn, have the confidence to make choices and listen to and follow instruction well. Staff encourage children to take on the responsibility of small tasks. Older children wash the dishes after their snack and young children help to wipe tables clean.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY444564
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1060111
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	1 - 10
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Davidson-Roberts Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911128
Date of previous inspection	18 September 2012
Telephone number	01767 651462

Gamlingay Day Nursery was registered in 2012. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold relevant qualifications at level 2, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, from 7.15am until 6pm. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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