

Little Gems Nursery

Unique Enterprise Centre, Belfield Road, ROCHDALE, Lancashire, OL16 2UP



Inspection date

28 November 2016

Previous inspection date

24 January 2013

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Requires improvement | 3 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| | Previous inspection: | Good | 2 |
| 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 observations and assessments made of children's learning in some cases are not accurate enough to identify their next steps. Therefore, the manager and staff do not always have a clear picture of the progress children are making.
- Staff supervision is not effective. Managers do not consistently monitor staff's practice to ensure their teaching is effective.
- Teaching does not always ensure that children's learning is challenging enough. This is because some staff miss opportunities to use questioning to extend children's thinking during activities.
- Staff do not consistently offer the same level of learning opportunities to children who prefer to play and learn outdoors as they do for those who prefer to be inside.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are warm and welcoming. They form positive relationships with parents and they work well together to support children's emotional well-being.
- Children have good opportunities to carry out a variety of personal care tasks and to become independent. For example, they enjoy helping to prepare their own snack and tidying away toys.
- All staff are trained in first aid, contributing positively to promoting children's health and well-being.
- The management team has begun to identify some strengths and weaknesses of the nursery and have a clear commitment to continuous improvement.

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 use of information gained from observations and assessments to target the next steps in children's learning | 28/02/2017 |
| ■ ensure that managers provide effective supervision of staff that helps them improve their practice. | 28/02/2017 |

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

- strengthen questioning skills that challenge children and help them think through new ideas and concepts
- plan and provide more high-quality outdoor learning opportunities that enable children who prefer to play outdoors to learn in their preferred environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play areas inside as well as the outside play space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff at appropriate times during the inspection and conducted a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

Inspector

Emma Barrow

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Managers have not put in place effective supervision for staff. This means managers do not oversee staff's performance to ensure their teaching is good. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements and regularly review any risks in the environment. Policies and procedures are implemented well. Managers ensure that all staff are trained in child protection procedures. The use of mobile telephones is not permitted. Risk assessments are completed and safety gates and secure doors prevent children from accessing unauthorised areas, such as the onsite cafeteria. Staff are deployed effectively and ratios are maintained at all times. This helps to keep children safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff do not consistently provide sufficient challenge for children. They do not consistently question them to help extend their thinking during activities. This impacts on the overall quality of teaching and what children learn. Observations and assessments are not accurate enough to effectively identify the next steps in children's learning. This means staff are unclear about the progress some children are making. However, children benefit from a range of resources and activities which covers all areas of learning. Staff provide learning experiences for children that encourage them to play as soon as they arrive and to engage independently in their favourite activities. For example, children enjoy building a train track with their friends.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff do not plan effectively, so that children who prefer to learn outdoors have enough opportunities to learn in the environment. However, children are self-confident and enjoy their time at the nursery. The key-person system is effective. Children form secure attachments with their key persons. This helps them to settle well and contributes towards their emotional security. Staff are good role models. They play alongside children and actively encourage good behaviour. They manage children's behaviour positively through the use of praise. Staff help children sensitively to understand when some behaviours are not appropriate. Staff in the baby room sensitively support their needs by soothing them to sleep. Older children are encouraged to be independent, such as when they prepare their own snack. They ensure that children have healthy meals and are encouraged to understand and implement good hygiene practices. Staff support children's healthy lifestyles well. Staff have developed very good relationships with parents who speak positively about the care their children receive.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children do not make enough progress from their starting points. However, they are developing independence and self-confidence, as well as enjoying working with others. Overall, they are learning some of the skills needed in preparation for their move on to school. For example, children develop early literacy skills when supported to write their own names. Children are also supported and encouraged by caring staff to enjoy counting and to use mathematical language as they play.

Setting details

| | |
|--|---|
| Unique reference number | EY339580 |
| Local authority | Rochdale |
| Inspection number | 1064910 |
| 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 - 3 |
| Total number of places | 37 |
| Number of children on roll | 42 |
| Name of registered person | Kashmir Youth Project |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP905942 |
| Date of previous inspection | 24 January 2013 |
| Telephone number | 01706 516 609 |

Little Gems Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these two hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 2, five at level 3 and one at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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