

Raindrops Nursery

Millhayes Sports Pavillion Tunstall Road, Stoke on Trent, ST8 7AQ



Inspection date 10 January 2017
Previous inspection date 31 August 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 quality of teaching and use of assessment are not consistently good across the nursery. This variable practice in teaching means not all children make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff do not consistently provide a broad range of activities which offers children a rich variety of experiences that keeps them motivated and interested.
- The monitoring of staff practice and the programme for staff professional development are not focused sharply on raising the overall quality of teaching swiftly.
- All staff do not consistently follow the expected nursery practice of preparing the environment in advance and checking carefully that any new resources introduced are appropriate.

It has the following strengths

- Parents and carers are warmly welcomed. Staff place a good focus on sharing information daily and keeping them up to date about their child's day.
- Links with the local pre-school that all the children move on to are strong. Staff place a high priority on ensuring children are well settled at the new pre-school during this transition phase.
- Staff have close relationships with their assigned key children. They have a nurturing approach and place a strong focus on supporting children's emotional well-being.
- The meals provided are freshly prepared, balanced and nutritious.
- Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if they are concerned.

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 assessment and teaching to help staff consistently recognise children's progress, understand their needs and provide suitable activities to raise children's learning to a good level	28/02/2017
■ ensure a broader range of planned and purposeful play activities is provided to help children explore and think and to keep them motivated	28/02/2017
■ ensure all staff consistently fulfil their expected responsibilities of preparing the environment in advance and checking carefully that any new resources introduced are appropriate.	10/01/2017

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

- build further on the system of monitoring staff and the programme of staff professional development, and raise the quality of teaching to a consistently good level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting and completed a joint observation with the owner/manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery. She also discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to parents and carers during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The manager does not effectively use the cycle of supervision and observing staff practice to help her focus precisely on improving the quality of teaching. As a consequence, staff do not understand precisely what actions they need to take to improve their teaching further. This results in teaching that is not consistently good and requires improvement. The manager has placed a better focus on ensuring the actions and recommendations made at the last inspection have been addressed. For example, children's safety is prioritised better when using the toilet and nappy changing area. Children have access to water at all times and staff have focused on working in partnership with parents. The manager has an accurate overview of the quality of service provided and further training opportunities have been identified for staff. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are robust vetting procedures in place to ensure staff are suitable and their continued suitability is checked at each staff supervision meeting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Activities are not always matched to the children's understanding and level of development. For example, on occasions, the books used at story time and some of the mathematical and literacy concepts introduced to the children are too advanced. This results in children not always showing good levels of understanding and interest in what is provided. In addition, staff do not consistently provide a motivating range of activities for children to choose from and explore. Staff work well with parents to establish the children's starting points on entry, and regularly observe children and identify their next steps in learning. However, staff do not use this information precisely enough when planning activities and, therefore, children do not make the best possible progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

All staff do not consistently follow the expected practice of preparing the outdoor play area in advance, for example, removing rainwater and ensuring toys are clean outdoors, and checking carefully that any new resources introduced are appropriate. Consequently, the environment and activities are not always well prepared in advance so that staff can make the best use of their time interacting with children. Staff provide children with gentle reminders about the rules in place for their safety and they respond well to this direction. Staff caring for babies are attentive to their individual routines and care needs and follow these in line with parents' wishes. Staff ensure children benefit from daily physical activities to promote their good health and well-being.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Not enough children make good progress from their starting points or are well enough prepared for their next stage of learning. However, children do acquire some basic skills for when they move on to the local pre-school. On the whole, children enjoy the routine and are happy and confident. They learn to share and take turns and how to manage their feelings. They are beginning to enjoy physical activity, singing sessions and using their senses to explore. The most able children show an interest in others and have friendship groups.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY480374
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1073377
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	24
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Raindrops Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904796
Date of previous inspection	31 August 2016
Telephone number	01782 516763

Raindrops Nursery was registered in 2014. It is one of three settings managed by Raindrops Nursery Limited. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday and all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-year-old children. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, eight hold level 3 and one holds level 2.

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