

Normanhurst Day Nursery

110 St Georges Avenue, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 6JF



Inspection date

10 January 2017

Previous inspection date

11 February 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 current processes for supervising staff and offering consistent support are not rigorous. The manager has a limited understanding of how to target staff's professional development to improve the overall quality of teaching.
- The quality of teaching is inconsistent. Some staff lack confidence in delivering activities in ways that challenge and extend children's learning more effectively.
- Some staff do not effectively plan for daily routines and activities. Children are sometimes unnecessarily interrupted when engaged in play. At times, this prevents them from following their interests and making their own play choices.
- Staff do not consistently manage all aspects of children's behaviour appropriately.
- Children who prefer to learn outdoors do not always have their learning needs met. Staff do not consider this when planning for outdoor activities.

It has the following strengths

- Most staff build positive relationships with children. Generally, children are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery.
- Children can choose independently from a wide variety of easily accessible resources.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. Parents speak highly of the nursery and are kept well informed of their children's welfare, learning and development needs.
- Children enjoy freshly prepared balanced meals in a relaxed environment where they learn about the types of food they need to eat to keep healthy.

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 staff receive appropriate support to address any training needs and raise the quality of teaching to a consistently good level	10/03/2017
■ address inconsistency in teaching to ensure all children are challenged in their learning and make as much progress as possible	10/03/2017
■ ensure staff consistently manage all aspects of children's behaviour appropriately.	10/03/2017

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

- minimise the risk of children's play and concentration being interrupted at times when routines change during their day
- improve planning to support the learning and development of children who prefer to learn outdoors.

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 completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, discussed self-evaluation and viewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ruth Patel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff understand what action to take if they have any concerns about a child's safety or well-being. Risk assessments are in place to ensure the premises and activities remain safe for children. The manager has appropriate recruitment systems in place to check and monitor staff's suitability to work with children. The manager has completed a written self-evaluation and has identified some areas for improvement. However, teaching has not been consistently monitored to address the variances in staff practice. Some staff have had insufficient support and training to develop their skills further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff observe and monitor children's interests and progress. Overall, they use the information they gain effectively to plan suitable activities. For example, children in the toddler room have fun as they enthusiastically join in dancing and singing sessions. However, planning in the pre-school room does not always effectively make the best of learning opportunities. Teaching for younger children and babies is strong. Children develop their awareness of numbers and counting during their play. For example, babies show delight as staff sing about five little ducks. Teaching for older children is weak and some activities lack challenge and sufficient opportunities to develop children's engagement. Some staff working with the older children do not have enough knowledge and experience to capture children's interest and adapt activities to fully extend their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff know children well and they understand and meet their care routines effectively. Children are supported well to learn about hygiene practices. For instance, children know to wash their hands before eating. Children are encouraged to eat healthy meals and have some opportunities to develop their physical skills outside. Staff model good manners well and younger children willingly help to tidy away toys as staff assign them each a task. Staff in the babies and toddlers room encourage children to behave well. For example, they discuss expected behaviour and the importance of sharing and being kind to others. However, staff in the pre-school room do not consistently support and encourage children to follow the behavioural boundaries and expectations of the nursery. Children have opportunities to learn about the wider world. For example, they explore different festivals and are gaining an understanding of cultures other than their own.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Younger children gain some skills and positive attitudes that prepare them for their next stage in learning. Overall, children reach typical levels of development for their age and some make good progress. However, due to the variability in the quality of teaching, not all children make the level of progress they are capable of.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315302
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1064787
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 - 5
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	ABC Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906967
Date of previous inspection	11 February 2013
Telephone number	01604 713048

Normanhurst Day Nursery was registered in 2005. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one holds level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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