

Marcham Little Angels (Nursery, Pre-School And After School)

Anson Field, Morland Road, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6PY



Inspection date

6 March 2017

Previous inspection date

1 November 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 is not yet consistently good. Staff are not planning suitably challenging activities, particularly for the youngest children in the pre-school room, to support every child's learning.
- Recently introduced systems for monitoring the educational programme, assessing children's progress and planning their future learning, are not embedded into practice.
- Staff are not always effectively deployed to support children's needs.
- Children are not regularly accessing drinking water, in order to ensure they are well hydrated.

It has the following strengths

- Staff have a secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. Children's well-being is effectively supported.
- The recently appointed manager is astute and highly competent. She has a drive to improve the quality of the setting.
- Children behave well, supported by staff who are good role models. Staff are kind and caring. They form positive relationships with the children in their care.
- Parents are very complimentary about the setting and the care provided for their children. They describe staff as engaging and friendly.

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 quality of teaching, especially for the youngest children in the pre-school room, to ensure it is consistently good or better	30/04/2017
■ develop the systems for monitoring and assessing children's progress so that all staff regularly assess children's development and use the information to plan challenging opportunities, to enable every child to make the best possible progress	30/04/2017
■ ensure staff are effectively deployed to meet the needs of all children.	30/04/2017

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

- make sure children are able to freely access drinking water, in order to help keep them well hydrated.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into account.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager of the nursery and the operational manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's learning both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager of the nursery.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including records of children's learning, accident records, staff files and suitability checks.

Inspector

Nikki Whinton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The leadership team has identified that there has been insufficient monitoring of the assessment programme. Some children's assessment records are not kept up to date. This means that any gaps in children's progress are not always identified early enough and delays strategies being introduced to assist children's learning. This is starting to be addressed. Safeguarding is effective. Staff liaise closely with outside agencies and are alert for signs that a child may be at risk. They know what to do if they have a concern about a child or member of staff. Procedures for ensuring staff are suitable to care for children, both at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis are effective. Performance management and professional development systems are driving change across the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable, particularly for the youngest children in the pre-school room. Some planned activities, such as circle time, are not appropriate for the younger children. They become disengaged and restless, which impacts negatively on their learning. Since the last inspection, staff have attended training on how to assess and plan for children's learning. New assessment systems are being embedded into practice, to assist staff in accurately identifying children's progress. Some staff are more confident than others in implementing these programmes. Parents are kept well informed about activities and their child's achievements. For example, they can access their child's assessments on line and view the planning information displayed.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff in the pre-school room are not sufficiently alert to the movements of the youngest children. On occasions, younger children wander between the areas or select resources with little engagement from staff. As a result, children's individual needs are not always supported. Children are not always able to help themselves to drinking water, to keep themselves well hydrated. Most children settle quickly and enjoy their time in the setting. Any children who are tearful are quickly reassured by their key carers. Children are learning ways to help keep themselves safe. For example, they are reminded not to run indoors.

Outcomes for children require improvement

At times, staff do not give children time to think and respond to questions. For example, during a discussion on the weather, a child commented that it was icy. Staff asked why they knew that, before answering the question themselves. Children in the pre-school room build their confidence and independence as they move freely between the indoor and outdoor areas. Children become enthralled chalking on paving slabs and identifying the shapes they have drawn. Older children solve problems, such as when comparing the numbers of different coloured windows in a house they have made from construction materials. Babies excitedly clap their hands as they explore a large tray of warm water and bubbles.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY497428
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1081826
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 - 11
Total number of places	46
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	The partnership of Helen Corcoran and Kaye Merriman
Registered person unique reference number	RP903912
Date of previous inspection	1 November 2016
Telephone number	07516474287

Marcham Little Angels re-registered in 2016. It operates from premises in Marcham, Oxfordshire. The provision is open from 7.30am to 5.30pm and operates throughout the year with the exception of the week between Christmas and New Year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. There are 11 staff caring for the children, four of whom have childcare qualifications at level 3 and one of the managers holds Early Years Professional status.

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