

Abbey Playgroup

Vicarage Road, Minster on Sea, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2HE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

20 April 2017

5 March 2015

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, who is also the manager, does not meet the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register requirements. She has not understood her responsibility to notify Ofsted of changes to the committee members over the last two years so that the required suitability checks can be completed.
- Staff have not made links with other settings that children attend. They are unaware of what children are learning elsewhere or how their needs are being supported. Outcomes for children vary.
- Children do not have a wide range of opportunities to learn to be independent and complete tasks for themselves. Staff do not consistently plan group activities and some daily routines to fully engage and support all children.
- Self-evaluation is not used effectively to identify breaches in requirements and areas for improvement.

It has the following strengths

- Staff build on children's interests to provide resources which engage them in their play and learning.
- Children settle well and are confident to talk to adults and children.

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
■ improve understanding of the notification requirements	08/05/2017
■ ensure that Ofsted is informed of all changes to the committee within required timescales, and provided with required information so that relevant suitably checks can be completed	08/05/2017
■ ensure partnerships with other settings that children attend are developed to share information and support consistency in their learning and care.	08/05/2017

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

- make the most of all opportunities to enable children to extend their independence and complete tasks for themselves
- review and develop further the organisation of group activities and daily routines to fully engage and support all children's learning
- make effective use of self-evaluation to identify weaknesses in meeting the requirements and target areas to improve outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector jointly observed an activity with the manager and discussed children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled policies and procedures, and children's learning records.

Inspector

Sarah Taylor-Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is ineffective. The provider has not informed Ofsted of any changes to the committee within the required timescales. The entire committee has changed on more than one occasion over the last two years and Ofsted has not been notified at any point. Ofsted has been unable to complete the required checks to verify committee members' suitability. However, committee members have not had unsupervised access to children. Staff understand the possible signs that indicate a child may be at risk of harm and what to do if they have concerns. Staff have opportunities to develop their skills. For example, they receive one-to-one coaching and support. The provider and staff have recently developed interesting sand and mud digging areas outside. However, their self-evaluation is not effective to help identify breaches in requirements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff have appropriate relationships with parents to help support children's learning. For example, they share information about children's development and invite feedback about what children have been doing at home. However, staff have not taken opportunities to liaise with other settings that children attend. They do not have any information about what children are learning elsewhere to help provide continuity in their care and education. Staff do not effectively organise some routines and group activities to fully engage and support all children's learning. Children become bored and occupy themselves. Overall, staff support children's communication and language skills. For instance, they hold conversations with children to extend and develop their vocabulary. Children's overall progress is monitored to help identify any gaps in their development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The weaknesses in safeguarding measures have a potentially significant impact on children's welfare. Staff do not make the most of all opportunities to encourage children to be independent. Nonetheless, children make some choices in their play. For instance, those who prefer to play outside enjoy taking resources with them to explore. Staff ensure that all children are included and valued at the setting. For example, children learn about a range of different cultures and respect each other's backgrounds.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Not all children make consistently good progress in relation to their individual starting points. Children are not fully engaged in their learning to help them achieve well. They have opportunities to develop their literacy skills. For instance, children begin to learn to recognise and write their names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	126947
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1089321
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	36
Name of registered person	Abbey Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519590
Date of previous inspection	5 March 2015
Telephone number	07851429453

Abbey Playgroup registered in 1992 and is in Minster, Isle of Sheppey. The playgroup opens from 9am to midday, each weekday, term time only. The playgroup employs six members of staff, of whom four hold appropriate early years qualifications to level 3. The playgroup receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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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