

Nether Heage Playgroup

The Village Hall, School Lane, Heage, DE56 2AL



Inspection date

8 May 2017

Previous inspection date

18 May 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Inadequate	4

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The new leadership team has failed to understand their responsibilities. There are repeated breaches of requirements that hinder children's welfare, safety and learning.
- Leaders and staff fail to follow their own safeguarding policy. They have not taken appropriate action to deal with safeguarding concerns. Staff do not ensure that potential risks to children are identified and minimised to promote their safety.
- Leaders fail to ensure that Ofsted has the information needed to conduct suitability checks on all committee members nor do they retain vetting information on staff.
- There is a significant lack of support for staff and volunteers to understand their role. For example, staff supervision and professional development processes are poor and have very little impact on improving the quality of teaching and care practices.
- Teaching is weak. Staff do not support children's learning effectively, including for those who have communication and language needs. Children make limited progress, which prevents them from gaining the basic skills needed for their future learning.
- Assessment processes are weak. Staff do not gather sufficient information about children's starting points to address their learning needs and plan suitable next steps.
- Partnership working with other settings and professionals is poor. Leaders and staff fail to share key information to meet children's learning and welfare needs effectively.

It has the following strengths

- Staff manage children's behaviour appropriately and provide a calm atmosphere.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that the safeguarding policy and procedures are effectively implemented and that the designated safeguarding officer takes responsibility for liaising with relevant agencies where there are concerns about children 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that staff understand the safeguarding policy and procedures and are able to respond to any signs of possible abuse in a timely and appropriate way 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise risks to children to promote their safety 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that all committee members submit the required information to Ofsted, within a timely manner, to enable suitability checks to be completed 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that all staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to promote children's safety and welfare 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ record and retain information about staff identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that supervision provides appropriate support, coaching and training for staff to improve their knowledge and teaching, so that children receive good quality learning and development experiences 	30/05/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that information is shared with parents and carers and other agencies, professionals and settings that children attend to provide consistent support for children's care, learning and development. 	30/05/2017

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improve teaching to ensure that all children are given appropriate support to move forward in their communication and language skills, and to help narrow any gaps in their learning 	03/07/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that teaching guides children's learning through purposeful play and provides challenging experiences that help children to move forward in their learning 	03/07/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ implement a consistent system for initial assessment to identify children's starting points, which includes observations from parents and carers. 	05/06/2017

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 chair of the committee, managers and staff. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability of staff and volunteers working in the setting.
- The inspector discussed the procedures for self-evaluation and the priorities for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to parents and carers during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Justine Ellaway

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Leadership is weak. Many of the weaknesses identified at previous inspections and monitoring visits from Ofsted have not been addressed. Furthermore, there are now additional weaknesses in practice. Safeguarding is ineffective. Leaders and staff fail to understand their responsibility with regard to child protection issues. They lack commitment to ensure that concerns are managed appropriately and incorrectly assume that concerns will be dealt with by others. In addition, leaders and staff fail to keep an accurate log of all concerns about children. The designated safeguarding officer does not take responsibility for liaising with other agencies and leaves staff to manage this themselves. Risk assessments are ineffective. The playgroup is overly reliant on external feedback to identify potential hazards, specifically in the outdoor area. Staff do not ensure that children are safe when they play, particularly in the walkway at the front of the hall. Leaders do not ensure that committee members submit the required information to Ofsted to check their suitability. They do not keep a record of all of the suitability checks that they undertake on staff. These breaches of requirements compromise children's safety and welfare. Management of staff performance is weak. Although leaders sometimes observe and evaluate teaching, they do not identify appropriate improvements or drive the quality of staff practice. There are appropriate records of accidents and three members of staff have a current paediatric first-aid certificates.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Staff fail to gather sufficient information about children's starting points and do not include parents' and carers' observations. Staff do not help children to move forward in their learning and there is insufficient interaction with the children. For example, staff often take a supervisory role as they watch the children. They mostly comment on what children are doing and do not join in with their play. Staff fail to provide sufficient challenge to help children to build on what they already know. Although staff assess children's development and identify that some children need additional support in their communication and language skills, they fail to provide this. Support for children's communication and language development is not effective. For example, when staff talk to children, the conversation is very limited and children receive a lack of support to develop their vocabulary, or to recognise the correct pronunciation of words. Staff share information about children's learning on an ongoing basis with parents and carers.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Leaders fail to follow appropriate procedures to ensure children's safety and prioritise their welfare needs by promptly reporting concerns. There is weak partnership working with other agencies and professionals. Staff do not ensure consistency in addressing children's specific needs. For example, they do not know what support others are providing, so that they can complement this. Staff provide appropriate toys, resources and space. They take into account children's interests and give children the opportunity to move freely between the indoors and outdoors. Staff generally promote healthy eating and children's independence, such as at snack time.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Weaknesses in teaching prevent children from making sufficient progress in their learning, particularly in their communication. For example, children are often very quiet during activities and will nod or gesture rather than communicate verbally. Children sometimes flit from one activity to another and do not often immerse themselves in play. In spite of the poor quality teaching and lack of engagement, children behave well. They enjoy each other's company and know what is expected of them, such as at snack time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206823
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1053762
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	Nether Heage Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP907262
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2016
Telephone number	07779823971

Nether Heage Playgroup registered in 2001. The playgroup employs five members of childcare staff, including the manager. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2. The playgroup opens Monday, Wednesday and Friday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 12pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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