

Little Wrens At Milford

The Old Bank House, 5 High Street, Milford On Sea, Hampshire, SO41 0QF



Inspection date 16 October 2017
Previous inspection date 15 May 2017

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:

- Although the designated named safeguarding lead practitioner has an understanding of her role and responsibilities, the provider has not made sure the lead practitioner attends child protection training to keep her knowledge updated.
- At times, staff do not use effective strategies to manage children's behaviour, and children do not learn how to manage their own behaviour well.
- Staff are still developing their knowledge of the new systems implemented to monitor children's progress. Not all information is accurate to enable staff to plan and provide activities that challenge children and support their learning well. Children do not make the best possible progress.
- The provider's self-evaluation is not strong enough to identify all areas for development.

It has the following strengths

- Staff provide a safe and welcoming environment. Children are happy and settled, and relate well to staff and each other.
- Staff form effective partnerships with parents. The ongoing two-way exchange of information contributes towards continuity for children's care and development.
- Children learn about different people and communities. For example, staff take them on regular walks to the local shops to select the fruit for their snacks.
- Children have access to a wide range of resources and show developing independence as they make choices about how and where they want to play. Staff provide a safe and welcoming environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ make sure that the designated safeguarding lead practitioner attends a child protection training course 	27/11/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ increase staff's knowledge and understanding of strategies to manage children's behaviour, and implement these effectively to help develop the children's understanding of acceptable behaviour 	25/12/2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ make better use of assessment to identify effectively children's stage of development and use this information to provide children with learning experiences that have a sufficient level of challenge. 	25/12/2017

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

- develop the self-evaluation process further to ensure it is effective in identifying all areas that require improvement to improve outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors and the interaction between the staff and children, and looked at the play equipment and resources.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager to discuss the impact of teaching after viewing activities.
- The inspector spoke with the provider, the manager, staff and some parents. She also talked with the children at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's records, planning and staff suitability records.
- The inspector looked at, and discussed, systems used to evaluate the nursery.

Inspector

Dinah Round

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The provider is working with outside agencies to address weaknesses. However, although she is continuing to support the new manager and the staff to develop their skills, there are still some areas for development. Designated staff for safeguarding have not done the required child protection training. However, this does not have a significant impact on children as they have a suitable understanding of safeguarding issues and procedures. Clear recruitment and vetting procedures are instigated to check the staff's suitability to work with children, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks. Safeguarding is effective. Staff supervise children appropriately and follow clear procedures to make sure that children are safe. For example, staff bolt the front door to prevent anyone from entering the premises uninvited. Parents get regular updates about the provision and they comment that they feel well informed about the care their children receive.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff are using new systems to observe and assess children as they play; however, these are still evolving and are not yet effective for all children. Overall, staff interact positively with the children as they join in their activities, but they miss opportunities to challenge children's learning further. For example, staff introduce some counting to help develop children's understanding of number; however, they do not encourage children to compare number values, to build on their mathematical skills further. Children have regular opportunities to explore using their senses. For example, they feel the texture of the sand and use the tools to scoop it carefully into buckets.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The support to help children learn how to behave well is not consistently effective. Staff use some strategies to teach children how to play together, such as to use 'kind hands' and to share the toys. However, children do not always listen, as the staff do not make their expectations of behaviour consistently clear. Staff follow suitable routines when taking children on outings around the local community. For example, they teach children how to cross the road safely, to 'stop, look and listen', helping them learn to keep themselves safe. Children are provided with a wide range of healthy and nutritious snacks that are tailored to their individual dietary needs.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children enjoy their time at the nursery but do not make the best possible progress in their learning. They learn some skills that help to prepare them for starting school, such as learning to wash their hands before snack time. Children eagerly join in with action rhymes and show care and control as they move their bodies, helping to promote their physical development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY535563
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1099421
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Sarah Jane Renyard
Registered person unique reference number	RP903013
Date of previous inspection	15 May 2017
Telephone number	07885252175

Little Wrens At Milford registered in 2016. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks a year. There are six staff employed to work with the children; of whom, five hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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