

Abington Park Day Nursery



Abington Park Day Nursery, 473 Wellingborough Road, NORTHAMPTON, NN3 3HN

Inspection date	20 November 2017
Previous inspection date	9 April 2014

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:

- Staff do not consistently implement agreed behaviour management strategies. Children are not clear about what is expected of them, and sometimes demonstrate lower levels of self-control and cooperation that are appropriate for their age.
- Staff do not always use what they know of children’s learning from observations and assessments to target and plan purposeful play for each child’s individual needs. Children are not consistently provided with suitably challenging learning experiences to help them make good progress in all areas of learning.
- The quality of teaching varies across the nursery. Staff do not always give sufficient consideration to children’s next steps in learning. They do not consistently reshape or extend activities to effectively promote children’s good progress.

It has the following strengths

- Children form strong bonds with their key person. Settling-in arrangements and transitions from one room to the next are tailored to meet children’s individual needs. Children are happy and settled.
- Managers check regularly that all staff understand safeguarding policies and procedures. Staff and managers know how to identify and report any concerns about another member of staff or concerns for a child’s welfare.
- Parents comment positively about the nursery and staff. They are well informed about their child’s progress. They receive daily feedback and make effective use of the online learning records to see their children’s progress.

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"> ■ implement agreed strategies to manage children's behaviour to enable every child to learn what is expected of them 	23/01/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure observations and assessments made of children's learning are effectively used to plan challenging activities that sharply focus on all children's identified learning needs to help them make good progress in their learning 	23/01/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improve the quality of teaching to ensure that staff reshape and extend activities which reflect and challenge children's next steps in their learning. 	23/01/2018

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside. They assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspectors completed two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the nursery leaders and manager. They looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Claire Jenner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Recent changes have had a negative impact on some aspects of the quality of the nursery provision. However, the management team has begun to implement a clear plan for development. Managers and staff demonstrate a shared commitment to improve practice. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are vigilant and deployed effectively to promote children's safety. Risk assessments are in place. They are reviewed regularly and as events occur to assure children's safety. Effective recruitment and induction procedures are implemented by managers. This helps to ensure staff are suitable to work with children, and understand their roles within the team. All staff understand their duty to ensure that all records, such as those relating to accidents are completed appropriately.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Throughout the nursery, children access a range of resources that, in the main reflects their interests. Staff observe children and make assessments of what they know and can do using an online system. However, planned activities do not always match the needs of individual children to ensure that they are sufficiently challenged in their learning. For example, staff do not use everyday play opportunities to help older children consolidate and extend their growing skills in all areas of learning. When children show an interest in number, staff do not draw on this to challenge them further. Outside, younger children explore the environment. However, staff miss opportunities to engage purposefully with children to capture their attention and build on their learning for sustained periods of time. Babies are well supported and confidently investigate resources. Staff talk to them as they feel soap on their hands and share their sense of delight and excitement.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Overall, children are confident and enjoy their time at nursery. However, staff do not always give clear enough guidance to consistently promote positive behaviour. For example, they do not inform children why they have removed them from certain situations or use positive language to promote wanted behaviour. As a result, children are not given the tools to help them learn how to manage their own behaviour or understand boundaries and expectations. Children's good health is promoted well. They enjoy a balance of freshly prepared meals and snacks that reflect their individual dietary requirements. Children of all ages benefit from daily access to the outdoor environment and the opportunity to be physically active.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children, including those children who speak English as an additional language, do not always make good progress in their learning and development. Generally, children develop key skills which help to prepare them for their next stage in learning. They follow daily routines and develop their independence. Children serve themselves lunch and learn to attend to their self-care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343949
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1117578
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 - 4
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	Magic Nurseries 'A' Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905580
Date of previous inspection	9 April 2014
Telephone number	01604712098

Abington Park Day Nursery is one of seven nurseries run by Magic Nurseries 'A' Ltd. It registered in 2007 and operates from converted premises over three floors in a residential area of Northampton. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am until 7pm for 51 weeks of the year. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The provision employs 23 members of staff, 13 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two members of staff hold childcare qualifications at level 6, while the majority of other staff hold childcare qualifications at level 2 and level 3.

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