

Clarence House Cambridge

Old Church Hall, Green End Road, Cambridge, Cambs, CB4 1RW



Inspection date

22 January 2018

Previous inspection date

20 April 2016

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		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 provider fails to ensure that adequate risk assessments are completed or enforced. Staff do not identify risks or take action to ensure children's safety at all times.
- Staff deployment is ineffective. They are not vigilant and do not adequately supervise children. They fail to observe when children have accidents outdoors or when young children put unsafe objects in their mouth.
- Some spaces used by children are not clean and hygienic. Staff do not remove discarded food from areas where children play. They do not keep nappy-changing areas clean and hygienic. This poses a health risk to children.
- The manager does not effectively monitor staff's performance or support them to improve teaching practice. She does not check on staff's knowledge, understanding or implementation of the nursery's policies, procedures or risk assessments.
- Staff administer non-prescribed medication to children before they have obtained the required written permission for the particular medicine from children's parents/carers. This poses a potential risk to children's health and safety.
- Children lack interest and engagement in activities. Staff do not have high enough expectations of children or plan opportunities to address weaker areas of children's learning. This has a significant impact on children's progress.

It has the following strengths

- Babies begin to learn to be independent. Staff encourage them to feed themselves using a spoon.

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
■ ensure all reasonable steps are taken so that children are not exposed to risk; complete risk assessments to identify all risks, when and by whom they will be checked and how the risk will be removed or minimised	12/02/2018
■ ensure staffing arrangements are effective so that children are adequately supervised, their safety is assured and their needs are met at all times	12/02/2018
■ ensure spaces available to children are clean, hygienic and effectively promote children's good health	12/02/2018
■ implement an effective system for monitoring staff performance to ensure policies are fully understood, followed and teaching is of a consistently high quality	12/02/2018
■ ensure that medication is only administered to children where prior written permission for the particular medicine is obtained from parents	12/02/2018
■ ensure all children experience an enjoyable and engaging learning experience which is challenging, targeted to their individual needs and helps them to progress well in all areas of learning.	12/02/2018

Inspection activities

- The inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information received by Ofsted about this provider.
- 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 nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection. She also spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julie Meredith-Jenkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. Staff do not consider the safety aspects of some activities or assess risks. They leave young children unsupervised at a water beads activity. Children put the beads in their mouth. During the inspection, the manager reviewed the safety instructions for the activity. The instructions gave a clear warning that children must not be left unsupervised and that the activity was only suitable for children aged three and over. Staff are not vigilant and do not adequately supervise children or remove potential safety issues. The manager does not check on staff's knowledge and understanding of the nursery's policies and procedures, such as those relating to health and safety. She does not monitor the effectiveness of their practice. Staff lack inspiration and enthusiasm when organising the environment and when planning activities for children. The manager fails to recognise weaknesses in staff's practice or support them to improve.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Children lack interest and engagement in the activities that staff plan for them. Children begin to play imaginatively in the play kitchen. They fill trays with sand using their hands to make pretend cakes. However, there are limited resources to enhance their learning and children quickly lose interest and leave the activity. Staff sit with children and ask questions, however, often children do not respond. Staff provide babies with a basket of cars to play with on the carpet. They sit looking passively on showing little interest. Staff assess children's progress from entry. They identify some gaps in their learning, such as their speaking skills. However, they do not plan effectively to focus on weaker areas of learning and help children to reach important developmental milestones. Parents comment that staff communicate effectively with them. Staff share information with parents about children's routines and their progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Staff do not ensure that all areas of the premises are clean and hygienic. Staff do not clear away after snack in a timely manner. Discarded food is left on the floor, on tables and on chairs. Children play in the area and some younger children pick food up off the floor and put it in their mouths. Staff are not vigilant and fail to respond. Staff do not follow strict hygiene procedures when changing children's nappies. They do not ensure that the mat on which they change children is kept clean. Staff do not seek written permission from parents prior to administering some non-prescription medication, although they do get verbal permission. These weaknesses in health and safety practices pose risks to children's health. Children have opportunities for physical play. They ride on bikes outdoors and use large play equipment. Staff encourage children to share resources and listen to others. Children are beginning to develop suitable social skills.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Weaknesses in planning and teaching mean that children do not make enough progress. Gaps in children's learning are not closing at a quick enough pace in key areas, such as their speaking skills. Children do not engage well in meaningful learning opportunities. They do not display positive attitudes to learning. They lack effective listening skills at

story time. They often do not respond to staff's questions. Staff do not prepare children well for school or the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY478404
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1121736
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	38
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Clarence House Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903550
Date of previous inspection	20 April 2016
Telephone number	01223778383

Clarence House Cambridge registered in 2014 and is privately owned. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.15pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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