

St. Gabriels Nursery

Chillingham Road, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE6 5SH



Inspection date

16 May 2018

Previous inspection date

15 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:

- Activities sometimes lacks appropriate challenge and do not extend children's learning as fully as possible. Staff do not always consider children's age and stage of development, or what they need to learn next, when planning activities and some children lose interest.
- The supervision and monitoring of staff practice is not sufficiently focused on raising the quality of teaching to a good level.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are caring. They respond to children's individual care needs effectively and are vigilant in ensuring that children's individual dietary or medical requirements are met. Parents comment that staff know their children individually.
- Partnerships with parents are good. The nursery uses a range of methods to communicate with them. Strategies, such as electronic journals and detailed daily handovers, help to ensure that parents are aware of how they can support children further.
- Children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities progress well and the achievement gap is closing. Staff work effectively with professionals to support children further.
- Staff give children lots of praise, and children enjoy this. For example, children wave their hands in delight as they pop bubbles.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

Due Date

- improve educational programmes to ensure they consistently take account of children's individual learning needs, interests and stages of development and provide appropriate levels of challenge 19/06/2018

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

- focus supervision and monitoring more precisely to target support for individual staff on raising the quality of teaching to a consistently good level.

Inspection activities

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

Inspector

Elizabeth Fish

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a sound understanding of child protection issues. They know what to do if there is a concern about a child in their care and they complete training to ensure their knowledge is updated. Risk assessments are thorough and help to keep children safe in the nursery. The manager and her deputy track children's progress and observe staff to monitor the quality of practice. However, staff supervision and support are not consistently precise enough to tackle all weaknesses in teaching. For example, although the manager has identified weaknesses in staff's communication with children, she has not checked that any improvements are consistently embedded.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable. Although staff are well qualified, some activities do not provide appropriate levels of challenge. Staff do not always have a good enough knowledge of children's next steps in learning and do not always build on these effectively. Staff have implemented some strategies to strengthen children's communication and language. For example, some staff working with younger children clearly articulate single words. On occasion, staff provide fun and interesting activities that engage children. For example, babies actively explore their environment and delight in the sensory exploration of water. Older children concentrate well as they work together to build structures with blocks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children sometimes lose concentration and distract each other because some group activities do not support their individual needs or stage of development. However, children demonstrate that they are confident and secure in nursery and develop good relationships. For example, young children eagerly approach staff for cuddles. Parents comment that their children enjoy coming to nursery and develop good relationships with their key person. Staff help children to adopt healthy lifestyles. For example, children enjoy a range of healthy meals. They enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise in the well-equipped garden. Staff are vigilant and help to keep children safe. For example, older children check the outdoor area is safe before use.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children do not always make the best possible progress because of weaknesses in teaching. They gain some skills that prepare them for the next stage in their learning. For example, young children develop their independence skills as they begin to use cutlery. Older children use tools and materials to construct with a purpose in mind.

Setting details

Unique reference number	319303
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	1087805
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	113
Number of children on roll	106
Name of registered person	Kid 'N' Play Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP522224
Date of previous inspection	15 April 2014
Telephone number	01912 765 909

St. Gabriels Nursery registered in 1996. It is owned by Kid 'n' Play Nurseries Limited and operates in Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne. The nursery is open from 7.45am until 6pm Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year. There are 36 members of staff employed. Of these, 35 hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 or above, including four with early years professional status. The nursery provides funded places 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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