

Tiddlywinks Day Nursery & Pre School



Springfield Parish Centre, St. Augustine Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 6GX

Inspection date	12 July 2018
Previous inspection date	13 May 2015

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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is variable within the nursery. Staff do not always interact with children effectively to support their development and extend their learning.
- Children's development is assessed at regular intervals. However, some of the assessments are not accurate. Consequently, emerging gaps in children's achievement are not always identified swiftly.
- Systems for the effective monitoring and supervision of staff are still in their infancy. Staff are not fully supported to understand the responsibilities of their role and improve the quality of their teaching.

It has the following strengths

- Children are settled, happy and confident. They enjoy their time at the nursery. They build positive relationships with the staff and are developing friendships with each other.
- Children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities are well supported. The manager and her team work closely with parents and other professionals, gaining a wealth of information to help provide continuity for their care needs.
- Parents make positive comments about the quality of care provided by staff. They say that their children have 'thrived' and that they feel involved in their children's learning.

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 teaching strategies, so that staff consistently support children's development and challenge and extend their learning to promote their good progress	10/08/2018
■ implement a consistent system for assessment to accurately monitor and track children's progress and use this information to swiftly identify and address emerging gaps in their achievement	10/08/2018
■ develop support provided to all staff to ensure that they are sufficiently skilled and knowledgeable and that they have a clear understanding of their roles.	10/08/2018

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 took account of the views of children and staff spoken to on the day of inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and nursery manager. They looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a teaching activity with the nursery manager.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The management team has developed some systems to monitor staff performance. However, these are not rigorous enough to support staff to fully understand the responsibilities of their role or improve the quality of their teaching. The manager is aware of the weaknesses within the nursery and she is extremely keen to improve practice. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are suitably trained and are able to discuss the procedures they would follow if they had concerns about a child's welfare. Staff are deployed well. They supervise children effectively and promote their safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Children experience a mixture of good and weak teaching. Overall, staff recognise that children learn through play and generally support them appropriately, so that they make some progress in their learning. However, weaknesses in assessment means activities do not always provide appropriate levels of challenge. Nevertheless, children are happy and settled. Staff support young children's emerging imaginative skills well. Toddlers enjoy exploring with paints and rollers and older children make 'mud pies' outdoors. All children have many opportunities to practise their counting skills. For example, children count how many children are in the nursery and begin to use mathematical vocabulary, such as 'one more' and 'one less'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's personal development is promoted effectively by kind and caring staff. Staff know children well and provide supportive key-person arrangements. Children enjoy being active and staff make good use of the space they have outdoors to promote physical play. For example, children are encouraged to bring their bikes and scooters in from home and staff support them to develop their balance and coordination. Children are confident and independent. Staff consistently support them to make choices and do things for themselves. The nursery provides healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. Children learn about the importance of staying safe in the sun. Children behave well. They understand and cooperate with boundaries and routines during the day.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children generally appear to reach typical levels of development and older children gain basic skills to prepare them for their eventual move on to school. However, they are not making the best possible progress as teaching is not consistently good. Additionally, some assessments are not accurate. This means that the information on children's learning and development is too unreliable to have a clear and accurate view of children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY283577
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1091950
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	100
Name of registered person	Penny Ann Perry
Registered person unique reference number	RP904397
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2015
Telephone number	01245 463245

Tiddlywinks Day Nursery and Pre School registered in 2004. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold an appropriate early years qualification at levels 2 or level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday during school term time. Sessions are from 8.30am until 4pm. 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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