

The Den Farmside

8 Forest Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3SH



Inspection date	4 July 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Inadequate Not applicable	4
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Risk assessments are not adequate. The security of the premises is not managed effectively in all areas to fully support each child's safety and welfare.
- Staff-to-child ratios are not always maintained appropriately. At times, there are not enough staff on site to meet the minimum requirements to keep children safe and meet their needs.
- Registers are not accurately maintained to show which staff and children are on site at any one time, including each child's hours of attendance, to support children's safety and well-being.
- The manager's arrangements to monitor the attainment of different groups of children are not fully effective in identifying gaps in learning at the earliest opportunity, to focus on continually improve the educational programmes.
- Staff do not consistently identify children's next steps in learning precisely enough to help them make more rapid progress.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and enjoy their time in the setting.
- Children demonstrate good physical skills, inside and outdoors.

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
■ improve risk assessments to ensure that all potential risks, with particular regard to the security of the front door and windows in the pre-school room, are safe and do not pose a hazard to children	18/07/2018
■ ensure appropriate staffing ratios are maintained at all times	18/07/2018
■ ensure that an accurate daily record is maintained of children's hours of attendance and the name of their key person.	18/07/2018

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

- build further on the good monitoring of children's progress to more precisely identify gaps in achievement between different groups, to ensure all children achieve at the highest possible level
- focus more sharply on identifying children's next steps in learning, to help them make the best possible progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and staff interaction with children, and viewed the toys, resources and equipment.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team, staff and children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of safeguarding practices, staff recruitment, training and professional development, and the evaluation process. The inspector looked at children's records and discussed how staff assess children's progress.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Alex Brouder

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is ineffective. The management team and staff do not ensure that effective risk assessments identify all hazards in the setting. At the time of the inspection, the lock on the front door was not used and some of the windows in one of the pre-school rooms were wide open. This means unknown persons could gain unauthorised access to the property. Further to this, on arrival, staff-to-child ratios were not maintained appropriately to help safeguard children's welfare effectively. While this was for a short period, this means that staff are not always able to meet children's individual care and learning needs. Registers of attendance are not accurately maintained. It is not always clear whether there are enough staff on site to care for the numbers of children present, or when children and staff have arrived or left the premises. This has a negative impact on children's safety and welfare. Most staff are appropriately qualified or working towards a childcare qualification. All staff complete mandatory training, such as paediatric first-aid and safeguarding training. The management team offers supervision and appraisals to staff to identify gaps, and offers appropriate training, coaching and support to improve practice. However, the manager is not using information gathered through tracking and monitoring children's learning to best effect. In addition, the management team is not using evaluation effectively to identify where there are weaknesses in practice. Staff have a suitable knowledge of what to do should they suspect a child is at risk of harm. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures help to ensure staff remain suitable. Parents spoken to at the inspection comment positively about the setting. They are happy with the care and education their children receive and of the positive changes made since the new owners took over.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified staff team has a good understanding of how to support all children to make at least good progress in their learning and development overall. They ensure the environments children access are well planned and reflective of their interests, enabling all children to be engaged in play and enjoy their time in the setting. Babies and toddlers laugh with joy as they splash in the water or squeeze shaving foam through their fingers. Older toddlers show good imagination as they pretend to cook food in the role-play area and give this to staff and visitors. Pre-school children show sustained engagement in a range of activities. For example, they create their own artwork, organise the chairs to make a bus, and hunt for bugs using magnifying glasses outside. Staff support children's communication and language development well and children build good speaking skills. They recognise that each child, including those who speak English as an additional language, needs to learn how to speak and communicate at their own pace.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Children's safety and welfare are not assured due to weaknesses in leadership and management, particularly in relation to risk assessment. However, children are settled and happy overall. They build strong relationships with staff, who get to know them well, enabling them to become self-assured and gain confidence ready for future learning. Children have regular opportunities to access the outdoors. Toddlers explore their

surroundings well. They show good control as they transport mud and water from one area to another. Pre-school children show good climbing skills on the larger play equipment and some use the swings with ease and show good control. Children show that they understand how to keep safe as they avoid going too close to children who are using the swings and when walking down the stairs. Children behave well. Staff provide them with clear guidance to help them manage their own actions. They encourage children to take turns and share. Pre-school children recognise the need to remain hydrated as they access water independently at the outside water station. All children are reminded to drink more in the very hot weather, supporting their good health. Food offered to children is of appropriate quantities and reflects a varied and balanced diet which is prepared in a suitable environment.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who are in receipt of funding, make good progress in readiness for the move on to school. Pre-school children show confidence as they greet visitors, ask them their name and chat excitedly about their upcoming move to school. They show good skills in recognising print as they find their name card and write this on their work. They spontaneously count and use mathematical language while they play. Children show good independence as they make choices in their play throughout the day.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY556945
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1140612
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 - 11
Total number of places	51
Number of children on roll	71
Name of registered person	The Den Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP907116
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01530589547

The Den Farmside registered in 2018. The setting employs 13 members of childcare staff, 12 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 5. The setting is open Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, all year round, except for public holidays. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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