

Sweet Pea Nursery

1st Whittlesey Scouts, Inhams Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1TT



Inspection date

25 June 2018

Previous inspection date

4 July 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 quality of teaching is weak. Staff do not provide activities that effectively challenge and extend children's learning as they play.
- The provider does not ensure that all adult-led activities and group times are effectively planned to engage, motivate and occupy children fully. Activities take too long to set up, which means that children are kept waiting unnecessarily, and they become distracted and lose interest before the activity has even started.
- The provider does not ensure that all food provided for children is healthy, balanced and nutritious. This does not support children's good health and well-being.
- Staff supervision is not effective. The provider does not follow up on previous actions set to help improve the quality of teaching.
- Self-evaluation fails to identify and focus on significant areas of weakness to raise the quality of practice.

It has the following strengths

- Staff manage children's behaviour well. For example, children learn to play with others and share their toys.
- Staff form close relationships with parents. Parents say they are happy with the service they receive.

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 the quality of teaching to ensure staff provide children with consistently challenging activities and experiences to help them make good progress	15/07/2018
■ ensure all adult-led and group activities are sufficiently planned to engage and motivate children fully	15/07/2018
■ ensure all food given to children is healthy, balanced and nutritious	15/07/2018
■ improve staff supervision to ensure that areas for improvement are followed up and staff receive effective training, support and coaching.	15/07/2018

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

- make greater use of self-evaluation to identify areas of practice that require improvement in order to raise outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching both inside and outside, and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and parents.
- The inspector read some of the required documentation.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector observed mealtimes.

Inspector

Tracey Dawson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The provider, who is also the manager, has failed to make sufficient improvements since the last inspection. Although the manager regularly completes staff supervision meetings and observes their practice, she does not follow up on actions raised at previous supervisions. Staff fail to develop their practice further in order to raise the quality of teaching. In addition, the manager has not identified that activities staff organise for children, including planned group times, are disorganised and do not take into account all children's ages and stages of development. Self-evaluation is ineffective. The manager does not reflect on all aspects of practice to identify key weaknesses effectively. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of what to do should they have any concerns about children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Weaknesses in the quality of teaching and staff practice have a significant impact on children's ability to make suitable progress in their learning and development. Staff do not organise activities well. For example, during a group activity to look at snails, children are kept waiting for more children to join them, and are then told to wash their hands, prolonging the waiting time. The teaching is mundane and does not excite or motivate children to stay. They become restless and some leave to play elsewhere. In addition, during a whole-group singing time, when staff forget the words to the songs, children lose interest quickly and start to play with other toys. Despite this, some children find toys to play with independently and enjoy painting pictures. The manager has made links with other settings that children attend and local schools. This helps staff to pass on and receive information about how children have been while at other settings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Staff do not provide children with healthy, balanced and nutritious food at mealtimes. For example, at lunchtime, staff lay out crisps, buttered bread, mini sausages and other 'buffet' style foods on a side table and encourage children to help themselves. While this helps to promote children's independence, staff do not monitor what children take and some children return to their chairs with lots of crisps and other less healthy foods. Staff help children with their self-care skills, such as washing their hands after using the toilet. Staff have built close bonds with the children. Children have daily opportunities to spend time playing outside.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Children's learning and progress are hindered due to weakness in the quality of teaching and the educational programme. Despite this, children learn some skills to support their eventual move to school. For example, older children write their name on their pictures and are starting to recognise numbers and use counting in their play. Younger children enjoy one-to-one time with their key person. They use early language and hand gestures, which staff copy, much to children's delight.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496267
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1112422
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	24
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Wendy Jane Whitwell
Registered person unique reference number	RP903227
Date of previous inspection	4 July 2017
Telephone number	07823 339492

Sweet Pea Nursery registered in 2015 and is privately owned. The nursery employs five members of childcare staff. The manager holds a relevant level 3 qualification and three members of staff hold a relevant level 2 qualification. The nursery opens all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday and 7.30am to 5pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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